# Nonpublic Schools Webinar

**September 17, 2025** 



### **Zoom Meeting Preparation**



- Please make sure your phone or computer is muted to minimize background noise.
  - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click "Mute."



- Please make sure you have turned off your camera to save bandwidth and prevent any connectivity issues.
  - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click "Stop Video."



 Please submit questions during the presentation in the "Chat" function located on the bottom of your screen.



### Agenda

- 1. Teacher Leader Summit 2006
- 2. BESE Approval and Brumfield vs. Dodd Approval
- 3. Nonpublic Annual Enrollment (EdLink Access)
- 4. Important Dates and Deadlines
- 5. Introduction of New LA GATOR Program Administrator
- 6. LA GATOR
- 7. School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities
- 8. Resources



# **Teacher Leader Summit 2026**



#### **Teacher Leader Summit**

- Hold the Date: Teacher Leader Summit 2026 is May 26-28 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Early bird registration opens February 16, 2026.
- To better serve all educators, the College and Career Readiness team has joined forces with Teacher Leader Summit to bring you an even more comprehensive experience. Sessions that would normally be part of our Fast Forward Convention are now integrated into Summit, giving you access to all the great content from both events — now in one convenient location!
- The call for presentations opens **October 15 and closes December 5.** All potential speakers will know they are presenters before registration opens. Attend the presenter information webinar on <u>October 15</u> at 1 p.m. or 4 p.m.





- The application for nonpublic schools seeking BESE (Board of Education & Secondary Education) approval for the 2026-2027 school year will close on October 15, 2025.
- The applications are completed via <u>iotform</u>, which is located on our <u>Nonpublic Schools</u> webpage.

 All applications should be complete upon submission. Providing incorrect documents may delay the BESE approval process.

#### Acceptable letters/certificates of accreditation:

- Review the <u>Accreditation Organizations</u> process to verify that your school's accreditation is acceptable.
- Accreditation letters and certificates are accepted.
- Expired accreditations will not be accepted.



OFFICE OF SCHOOL CHOICE

Nonpublic School Approval Process: Accreditation Organizations

Rs 17:4021 lists accrediting agencies as Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) accreditation organizations; Cognia accreditation organizations; National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) accreditation organizations; Louisiana Montessori Association (LMA): and the Discose and Archidicose in which the school is Cocated.

#### Bulletin 741 Nonpublic lists the following designations for BESE-approved schools:

- Accredited Approved: The school is currently accredited by SACSCOC, Cognia, or NAIS and meets all other criteria for BESE approval:
- Non-Accredited Approved: The school is not currently accredited by SACSCOC, Cognia, or NAIS
  but has met all other criteria for RESE approval:
- Louisiana Montessori Accredited Approved: The school meets LMA's accreditation requirement and all other criteria for BESE approval; and
- Louisiana Montessori Provisionally Accredited Approved: The school is actively working towards meeting LMA's accreditation requirements, but has met all other criteria for BESE approval;

The table below outlines all accrediting agencies that qualify a school for the Accredited Approved, Louisiana Montessori Accredited Approved, or Louisiana Montessori Provisionally Accredited Approved

	Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and Cognia Accreditation	National Association of Independent Schools ( <u>NAIS</u> ) Accreditation Organizations		
Lead Partners:  1. Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)  2. International Christian Accrediting Association (ICAA)  3. National Lutheran School Accreditation		Independent School Association of the Southwest (ISAS)     Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES)     Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA)		
4.	(NLSA) International League of Christian Schools (ILCS)	Louisiana Montessori Association (LMA)		
5.	National Christian School Association (NCSA)	1. Louisiana Montessori Association (LMA		
6.	Alabama Independent Schools Association (AISA) South Carolina Independent School	<u>Lumen Accreditation</u> The Catholic University of America		
Inte	Association (SCISA)  ogrative Partners:  Christian Schools International (CSI) Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS)	The Catholic Diocese of Lafayette (in process)     The Catholic Diocese of Shreveport (in process)     The Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge (in process)		



# Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) Inspection Reports

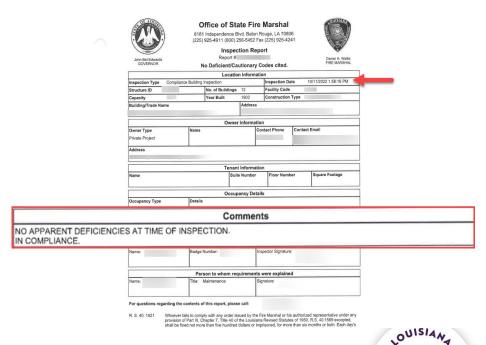
- The details of the inspection report must be included.
- Inspection reports completed before August 2024 will not be accepted.





# **State Fire Marshal Inspection Reports**

- City and state fire marshal inspection reports are accepted.
- Inspection reports completed before August 2024 will not be accepted.





# Brumfield v. Dodd Approval



#### Nonpublic Schools Seeking Brumfield v. Dodd Approval

In order to become eligible for state and federal funding, nonpublic schools must:

 Be approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and also comply with Brumfield v. Dodd, a federal court order that prohibits discrimination.

Schools that desire to participate in the SCP program are required to be BESE and Brumfield v. Dodd approved **and** complete the Notice of Intent (NOI), which started October 1, 2025.



#### Nonpublic Schools Seeking Brumfield v. Dodd Approval

- The application for nonpublic schools seeking to be Brumfield v. Dodd approved for the 2026-2027 school year is now available and will close on October, 15 2025.
- The <u>Brumfield v. Dodd Initial Application</u> or <u>Annual Compliance</u>
   Report must be complete in its entirety and attached to your
   school's BESE application via <u>jotform</u>, along with the school's
   nondiscriminatory policy and supporting documents.

# Nonpublic Annual Enrollment: EdLink Access and Reporting





#### **EdLink Access**

- Before submitting your school's NPS annual enrollment report, the responsible school administrator must create an EdLink account and request the "NPS School Manager Role."
- Please reference the **Nonpublic EdLink Manual** to create an account.
- Complete a <u>change request form</u> if there is an update in grade levels served and/or change in staff leadership who needs to access EdLink and receive ongoing notification from LDOE.
- If you encounter an error in the process, please contact us at <u>nonpublicschools@la.gov</u>.

### **EdLink Reporting**

Each fall, all BESE approved nonpublic schools must submit a Nonpublic Annual Enrollment Data report to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) by a specific deadline. The NPS reporting became available August 1, 2025 and will close on **October 15, 2025**. The following data will be required for the NPS reporting:

- Number of students by grade
- Students demographics (gender, ethnicity and grade)
- Number of Instructional days
- Number of Graduates (previous year)
- Number of Faculty



Welcome to

#### **EdLink Resources**

Link Description	Link
MYLA: Create a User ID and Password or reset a Password	https://my.la.gov/
	Use Your Resources
Edlink Ops Portal: Complete Personal Profile, create an Edlink account	https://ldoe.edlink.la.gov/
EdLink Sign in: Complete NPS annual enrollment report	https://ldoe.edlink.la.gov/#/
Edlink Security: Request Permissions	https://registration.edlink.la.gov/
Edlink Support: Direct your questions	nonpublicschools@la.gov
Edlink Tech Support: Request Technical Support	https://edlink.supportsystem.com/



### **October: Important Dates and Deadlines**

Date	Item	Where to Submit
October 15	BESE and/or Brumfield v Dodd Approval Applications Closes	<u>Jotform</u>
October 15	NPS Annual Reporting in EdLink	Edlink Website





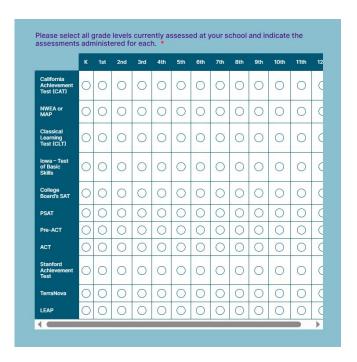
LA GATOR

# **Nonpublic Assessment Survey**

Office of School Choice Nonpublic Schools Assessment Collect	tion	
School •		
Site Code *		
Six numbers must be entered.		
Principal *		
esting Coordinator *		
Email *		
xample@example.com		
hone Number *		
(000) 000-0000		



#### Nonpublic Assessment Survey



 In this section, schools are asked to indicate the grade level and the corresponding assessment.

LA GATOR FAQs

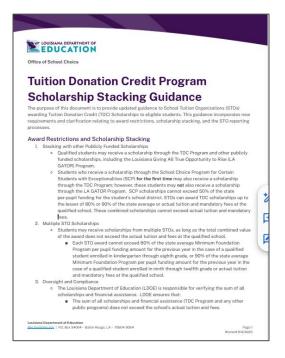


# **Nonpublic Assessment Survey**

Please	enter your testing w	indow(s) belo	w.		
Are the	ere any students who TDC, TDC & SCP, etc	stack funding	g at your scho	ol (e.g., LA GATO	R & TDC,
O Yes					
O No					



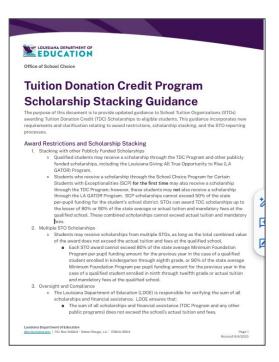
#### LA GATOR Stacking Guidance



- Qualified students may receive a scholarship through the Tuition Donation Credit (TDC) program and other publicly funded scholarships.
- First time School Choice Program (SCP) recipients may also receive a TDC scholarship.



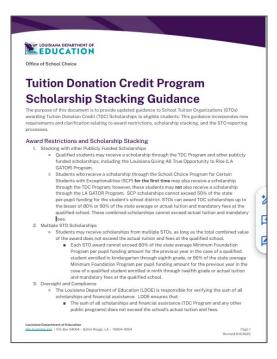
#### LA GATOR Stacking Guidance



 Students may receive scholarships from multiple School Tuition Organizations (STOs), as long as the total combined value of the award does not exceed the actual tuition and mandatory fees at the qualified school.



#### LA GATOR Stacking Guidance



- The LDOE is responsible for verifying the sum of all scholarships and financial assistance.
  - All scholarships, financial assistance, vouchers, and other forms of financial assistance given to students for attending nonpublic schools are to not exceed the school's actual tuition and mandatory fees.



## **Award Restrictions and Scholarship Stacking**

Program	Can Stack With	Cannot Stack With	Max Award	Notes
TDC	TDC		Not to exceed tuition; Each STO award cannot exceed 80% of state avg. MFP (K–8) or 90% of state avg. MFP (9–12)	
	SCP	LA GATOR	Not to exceed tuition; 50% of the state per-pupil funding for the student's school district awarded through SCP; Each STO award cannot exceed 80% of state avg. MFP (K–8) or 90% of state avg. MFP (9–12).*	* Students may receive multiple STO awards, with each award amount reduced proportionally so that the total does not exceed the tuition and mandatory fees.
	LA GATOR	SCP	Not to exceed tuition; each STO award cannot exceed 80% of the state avg. MFP (K-8) or 90% of state avg. MFP (9-12).*	



#### **Stacking Example 1**

#### TDC +TDC Awards

- Individual TDC awards cannot exceed the lesser of 80% (K-8) or 90% (9-12) of the state average MFP from the prior year or actual tuition or mandatory fees.
- Families have the option to accept or decline multiple TDC awards. If the parent selects multiple awards, STOs must proportionally reduce the awards not to exceed actual tuition or mandatory fees.

#### Example:

Tuition & Mandatory Fees	\$9,785
TDC Award 1	\$4,400
TDC Award 2	\$4,419
Remaining Tuition Balance	\$966



#### **Stacking Example 2**

#### TDC + SCP Awards

- . Only new SCP students are eligible to stack with TDC.
- SCP awards cannot exceed 50% of the state per-pupil funding for the student's school district and must be applied first.
- TDC award(s) will be proportionately reduced to remain within the 80% (K-8) or 90% (9-12) of the state average MFP from the prior year or actual tuition or mandatory fees.

#### o Example 1: Scholarship award not to exceed actual tuition and mandatory fees.

Tuition & Mandatory Fees	\$9,785.00
SCP (Awards Vary by Parish- EBR)	\$2,212.00
TDC Award 1 (80% of state avg. MFP- \$4,419)	\$4,419 (STOs proportionally reduce the amount to)- \$3786.50
TDC Award 2 (80% of state avg. MFP- \$4,419	\$4,419 (STOs proportionally reduce the amount to)- \$3786.50
Remaining Tuition Balance	\$0

#### Example 2: Scholarship award with remaining balance

Tuition & Mandatory Fees	\$9,785
SCP (Awards Vary by Parish- EBR)	\$2,212
TDC Award 1	\$4,419
Remaining Tuition Balance	\$3,154



#### **Stacking Example 3**

#### TDC + LA GATOR Awards

- · LA GATOR scholarship funds are applied first.
- TDC scholarship funds are applied to the remaining tuition and fee balance.
  - Each STO award cannot exceed 80%/90% state average MFP.
- . Combined LA GATOR and STO awards cannot exceed actual tuition and mandatory fees.
- LA GATOR awards cannot be reduced; STOs will need to proportionally reduce awards depending on a student's LA GATOR award amount.
  - Example:

Tuition & Mandatory Fees	\$9,785	
LA GATOR Award	\$7,626	
TDC Award 1	\$4,419 (STO proportionally reduces the amount to cover remaining tuition and mandatory fees)- \$1,080	
TDC Award 2	\$4,400 (STO proportionally reduces the amount to cove remaining tuition and mandatory fees)- \$1,080	
Remaining Tuition Balance	\$0	



### Opt In Deadline - Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Students who have not completed this step will be marked as opted out and lose their place in the LA GATOR Scholarship Program.

NOTE: Families experiencing technical issues who have been actively working with the Odyssey team will not be impacted by the deadline.

Schools with students that have not opted in were emailed: To double-check, log in to your Odyssey Account, download the Students CSV, and review Column P for student status. Sorting this column will show any pending opt-ins.



#### **Reporting Student Absences**

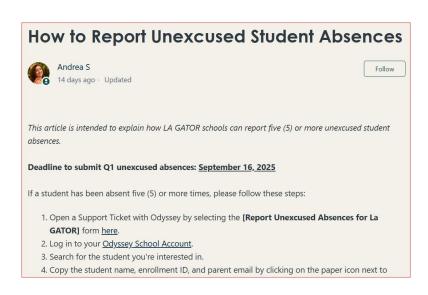
Per LA GATOR guidelines, schools have to report if a participating student accumulates five (5) or more unexcused absences in one semester. If this is the case, please complete the [**Report Unexcused Absences for La GATOR**] form <a href="https://doi.org/10.1001/journal.org/">here</a>. Ensure you provide the following:

- Student name
- Student enrollment ID
- Parent's email address.



#### How to Report Unexcused Student Absences

Step by Step Guidance: Click on this article link (title)





#### LA GATOR Support

- LDOE's Website: <u>LAGATOR.la.gov</u>
  - o All FAQs & Program Policy
  - Dedicated Pages by Participant Type
  - Program Updates
  - Application Links

#### Odyssey Support

- o **Phone**: (225) 422-1538
- Email: <u>help.la@withodyssey.com</u>
- **Instant Chat**: WithOdyssey.com (bottom right corner)



### **LA GATOR Support**

Kaleb Moore, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Office of School Choice, will be on leave as he begins his journey with the Army National Guard. We are thankful for his leadership and celebrate his courage, dedication, and commitment to serve.

The School Choice Team is here to assist you during this time of transition.

<u>Deandra.Narcisse@la.gov</u>, LA GATOR Program Administrator <u>Megan.Thompson2@la.gov</u>, Education Deputy Advisor for Office of School Choice





School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities

### **SCP Stacking with TDC**

#### General Protocol

- SCP Scholarship funds must be applied to tuition and fees only.
- SCP Scholarship funds must be applied to tuition and fees first.
- Remaining tuition and fees must then be covered using TDC scholarship funds.
- Families are responsible for any remaining tuition and fee balance after all scholarship funds have been applied.
- SCP cannot be stacked with LA GATOR.
- New SCP students can stack with TDC due to prior public school enrollment.
- If you have any students stacking awards, please send the student's name and award details to <a href="mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov">studentscholarships@la.gov</a>.



# **October: Important Dates and Deadlines**

Date	Item	Participants
October 1	Notice of Intent (NOI) School Choice Program Opens	Nonpublic schools actively participating or wishing to participate in SCP
October 8	Last Day to submit Payment Adjustment Forms for Q1	SCP Participating Schools
October 31	Notice of Intent (NOI) for School Choice Program Closes	Nonpublic schools actively participating or wishing to participate in SCP



## **Notice of Intent (SCP only)**

- The Notice of Intent is submitted to the Department each year in the fall to participate in our scholarship program and request \*NEW\* seats for the upcoming school year.
- SCP schools must complete the Notice of Intent even if no new seats are being requested for the 2026-27 school year.
- The NOI will collect information including (but not limited to):
  - Number of available scholarship seats per grade
    - This does not include returning or transfer students
    - This is meant to include students who are new to the scholarship program



## **Notice of Intent (SCP only)**

- Any Special Education services provided
- Tuition and Fee Amounts (SCP schools only).
- The NOI will be available on October 1st via Jotform that will be sent to all participating SCP school and it will be posted on the Louisiana Believes website.

Reminder: The Notice of Intent will be available October 1 - October 31 via Jotform



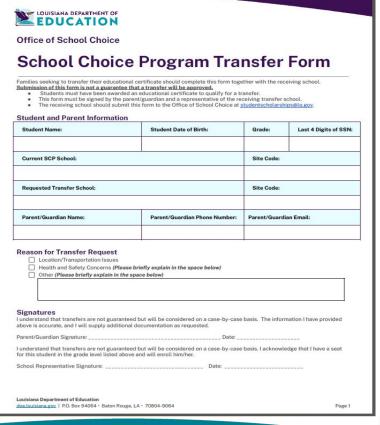
#### **Roster Verification**

- Check all rosters for accuracy for the current school year
  - Name
  - Grade level
  - SSN (if changes are needed a copy of the SSN card will be required)
  - o DOB
- Verify all current students on the roster
- If a student needs to be dropped send in a <u>Declined Award Form</u>



#### **Transfer Form**

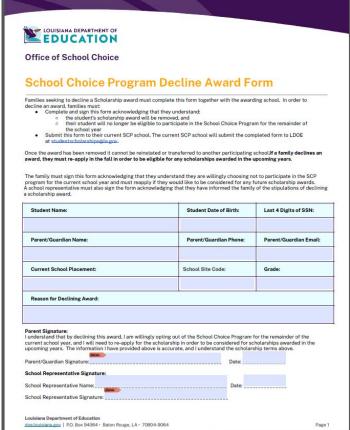
- Transfer forms must be completed correctly and signed by the school.
- Forms with incorrect or incomplete information will be returned.
- Use this <u>Transfer Form</u>.





#### **Declined Award Form**

- Declined Award forms must be completed correctly and signed by the school.
- Forms with incorrect or incomplete information will be returned.
- Use this <u>Declined Award Form</u>.





## **Payment Adjustment Forms**

Schools have 30 days from the last day of the quarterly enrollment reporting period (September 8) to report any enrollment issues.

- All Payment Adjustment Forms for Quarter 1 must be submitted by October 8.
- Any Payment Adjustment Forms for Quarter 1 submitted after October 8
  will be considered on an individual basis and must include an explanation
  of the late submission.
- Please note that late submissions are not guaranteed payment.

For questions, please contact <a href="mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov">studentscholarships@la.gov</a>.





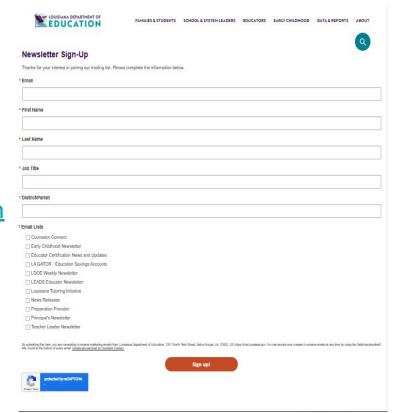
Resources

# Sign Up for Weekly Newsletters

How to receive weekly LDOE Newsletters-Go to

https://www.louisianabelieves.com/newsroom/newsletters to sign up for newsletters important for your role and to find archived newsletters.

- This <u>form</u> applies to system, charter and nonpublic newsletters.
- Important notices and materials are posted in these weekly newsletters.





#### **Office Hours**

Office hours are provided to offer one-on-one assistance for any questions you have.

- Available each week for school administrators and other school system employees
- Tuesday & Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Booking: <a href="https://www.picktime.com/LDEnonpublicschools">https://www.picktime.com/LDEnonpublicschools</a>

 In order to make sure that every school gets an opportunity to schedule a call, each call will be limited to 15 minutes.



#### **Office Hours**

- When booking, include a description of what you'd like to discuss during the call in the "booking notes" section of the form. This will ensure that our staff is prepared ahead of the call and can effectively use the time to address your concerns.
- If you miss your scheduled time, book a new appointment time.
- If you have any questions about Office Hours, please reach out to us at <a href="mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov">studentscholarships@la.gov</a> for assistance.

\*\*This service is not available to families.

Families can email questions to <a href="mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov">studentscholarships@la.gov</a>.

# Username, Passcodes, and the Unlocking Process

• If you are having a problem with your account, please always include your username and school code in the email.

 Please remember to only send one email request stating problem to studentscholarships@la.gov.



# **Helpful Links**

Name	Link
<ul> <li>Passwords expire every 60 days and must be reset. If you are having a problem with your account include your username and school code in the email sent.</li> </ul>	https://leads5.doe.louisiana.gov/ptl
<ul> <li>LDOE School Choice Library</li> <li>School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities</li> </ul>	https://doe.louisiana.gov/topic-page s/louisiana-school-choice/school-ch oice-program-for-certain-students- with-exceptionalities

# **Helpful Links**

Name	Link
<ul> <li>Information regarding Nonpublic and Scholarship action items</li> <li>Leaders are encouraged to review newsletters for nonpublic-specific items as well as information for public schools that may be helpful. The newsletter is released every Tuesday at 4:30 pm.</li> </ul>	LDOE Weekly Newsletter  https://doe.louisiana.gov/about/newsroom/newsletter-signup
School Choice Program for Student with  Exceptionalities  Information and resources for the Louisiana Scholarship Program	https://doe.louisiana.gov/topic-pages/louisiana-school-choice/school-choice-program-for-certain-students-with-exceptionalities

# **Nonpublic Team Contact Information**

Topic	Email Support
LA GATOR Program	lagator@la.gov
School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities (SCP)	studentscholarships@la.gov
Tuition Donation Credit Program (TDC)	
Operations/BESE Approval/Brumfield v. Dodd Approval	nonpublicschools@la.gov
Approved Home Study Program & Nonpublic Schools Not Seeking State Approval	homestudy@la.gov





# Thank You For Joining Today's Call!

