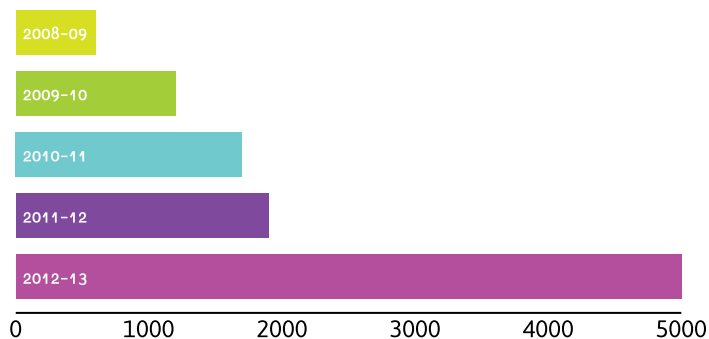


LOUISIANA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

The Louisiana Scholarship Program – formally known as the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program – provides low-income families with the financial resources to send their child to the participating school of their choice.

This Scholarship Program is a core component of Louisiana Believes – the Department of Education’s comprehensive plan to ensure every student is on track to a professional career or a college degree. When Governor Bobby Jindal signed Act 2 on April 18, 2012, he gave thousands of working families an option and an opportunity they never had before – to choose the school that will prepare their child for a lifetime of success.

Scholarship Enrollment Growth



Act 2 expanded the Louisiana Scholarship Program from a pilot program launched in New Orleans in 2008 to a statewide program enrolling nearly 5,000 students during the 2012-13 school year. Enrollment increased 171 percent from the 2011-2012 school year to the 2012-2013 school year.

The Louisiana Scholarship Program is rooted in the core belief that the adults closest to our children—parents and teachers, not bureaucrats—should choose how children are educated. Parents should be able to choose the right school for their children. Principals should choose their curriculum, how best to use their budgets, and which teachers are best for our kids. And our teachers deserve the freedom to choose the activities best for student learning.

On the other side is an equally important concept: accountability. This does not mean more rules and regulations from Baton Rouge and Washington, but rather accountability for outcomes and achievement. As with traditional and charter public school students, scholarship students take state tests and test results are reported publicly for each school. Student achievement on these assessments is used to determine the status of a school’s continued participation in the program. Additionally, schools participating in the scholarship program submit to a rigorous annual financial audit to ensure zero tolerance for fiscal mismanagement of taxpayer dollars.

Empowered parents and educators, accountable for results, equals a high-quality education that meets the needs of Louisiana students. This formula is at the heart of the Louisiana Scholarship Program and guides its continued growth and improvement.



CHOICE FOR LOUISIANA FAMILIES

It is our fundamental belief that Louisiana families, especially those whose children attend academically struggling schools, should be able to choose the school that is right for them.

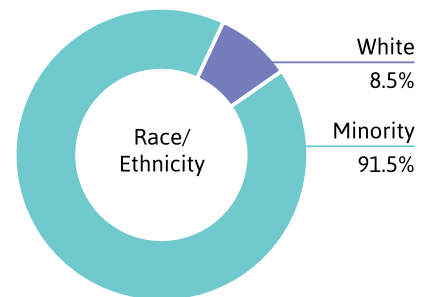
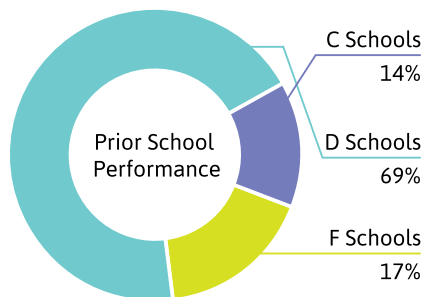
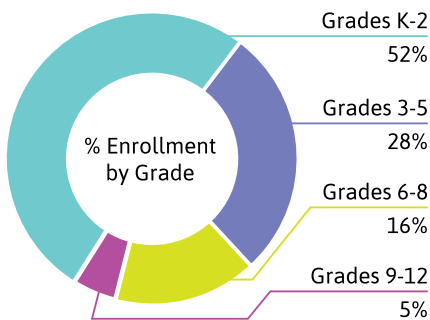
“Without the scholarship program I would definitely have to move to a better school district than the one I’m in, and I think we would be struggling a lot more. I think it’s always good for a parent to have options when it comes to education. Every child is an individual, and it’s great that we have an option.”

– Shelly Stabile, Parent



To be eligible for a scholarship, a student must be a Louisiana resident with a household income that does not exceed 250 percent of the federal poverty line, is either entering kindergarten or enrolled in a public school with a C, D, or F grade or is a continuing scholarship student. In the 2012–2013 school year, 10,468 students applied for scholarships and 55 percent (5,778 students) received awards. While Louisiana’s traditional public schools continue to improve— with more schools receiving an A or B letter grade this year than ever before, the number of applicants is a testament to the fact that the Louisiana Scholarship Program is making measurable strides towards meeting the demand for increased educational choice in Louisiana.

Nearly 5,000 students (4,967) accepted a scholarship and enrolled in a state approved nonpublic school in 2012–2013, allowing nearly 3,400 students across the state to receive scholarships for the first time. Of those transferring from a public school to a participating scholarship school, 86 percent came from D or F schools, 93 percent qualified for the federal free and reduced-price lunch program, meaning their household income fell at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty line, and four percent had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The vast majority of scholarship students were minorities (91.5 percent).



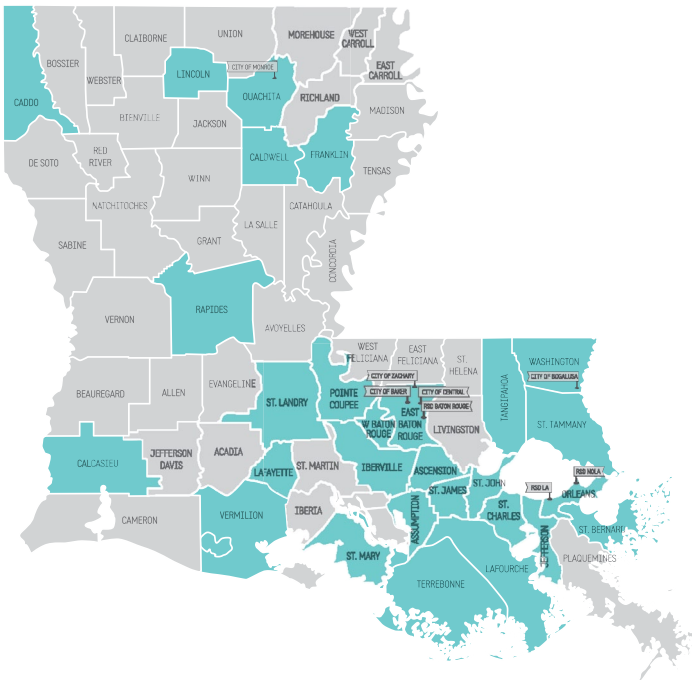
INCREASED OPTIONS FOR LOUISIANA FAMILIES

Now, more than ever before, Louisiana families have the opportunity to select a school from a wide variety of options that meets their students' unique needs.

“The Louisiana Scholarship Program has given St. Joseph Catholic School the opportunity to provide a quality education to students in our community – both in our church and in our neighborhoods...Our new students have risen to the standards set forth by St. Joseph Catholic School and they have performed excellent both academically and socially. As an administrator and proponent of this program, it has warmed my heart to see the impact we, as a school, have made on these students.” – Kevin Nolten, Assistant Principal

In Louisiana, tens of thousands of students – 14 percent of all Louisiana students – are enrolled in private schools. To be approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), schools must offer an education comparable to the quality of public schools. Graduates from BESE approved nonpublic schools are eligible for TOPS. Nonpublic schools participating in the scholarship program must be approved by BESE and also comply with *Brumfield vs. Dodd*, a federal court order that prohibits discrimination.

Participating Scholarship Schools



How Long Have Scholarship Schools Been Educating Louisiana Kids?

- 86% for 10 or more years
- 73% for 25 or more years
- 47% for 50 or more years

During the 2012–2013 school year, 117 state approved nonpublic schools – nearly one-third of eligible nonpublic schools – and one high-performing public school participated in the scholarship program. The overwhelming majority of these schools have been educating Louisiana students for a decade or more – 86 percent for ten or more years, 73 percent for 25 or more years, and 47 percent for a half century or more years. More than half of the schools are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) or from an agency recognized by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS).

Survey data indicate that scholarship students are assimilating well into their new learning environments, and schools are eager to support increased school choice. Schools participating in the scholarship program in the 2012–2013 school year enrolled an average of 42 scholarship students in grades K–12, making up 16 percent of schools' total student enrollment.

RESULTS

Parental Satisfaction

Families participating in the Scholarship Program report overwhelming satisfaction with their schools and the quality of education their children are receiving. In January 2013, the Black Alliance for Educational Options and the Louisiana Federation for Children conducted a direct mail survey to evaluate the level of parental satisfaction with the Louisiana Scholarship Program. The survey included 1,244 families representing 82 of the 118 participating schools.

“Like all mothers, I always want the best for my children. Like most single parents (especially those single parents with multiple children), I know the reality of having to skimp on certain luxuries in order to be able to provide the necessities... I feel proud of myself for taking this opportunity and grateful to God and to the individuals who made this program a reality. I know that my children are receiving the quality education that they (and every child) deserves.”

– Kelly Tyner, Parent

Academic Performance

In total 2,041 scholarship students, or 48 percent of all participating students, were enrolled in tested grades and took the LEAP, iLEAP, or EOC assessments in 2012–2013. Nearly 60 percent of test-takers were in their first year in the scholarship program. Students who had been in the scholarship program for multiple years out-performed first-time scholarship students in every subject and grade.

“I think [St. Leo the Great] has been great, and it’s been good to have a choice. I believe that a parent should be able to put their child in a place that is comfortable, in an environment where they can get a great education.”

– LaQuinneit Reneau, Parent

Performance Growth for Students at Schools Participating in the Scholarship Program for Two or More Years

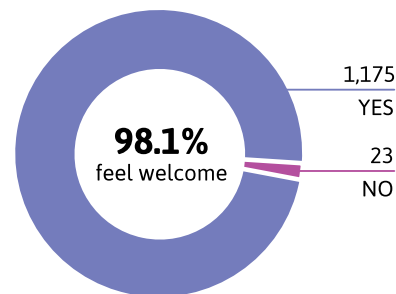
THIRD GRADE

School Year	ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies
2008–2009	33%	24%	24%	33%
2009–2010	37%	29%	21%	29%
2010–2011	46%	47%	26%	38%
2011–2012	53%	59%	47%	50%
2012–2013	53%	52%	41%	46%
Change	+20	+28	+17	+13

SCHOOL HOSPITALITY:

parents responded to the question

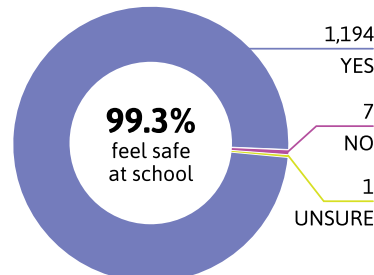
“Do you and your child feel welcome at your child’s scholarship school?”



STUDENT SAFETY:

parents responded to the question

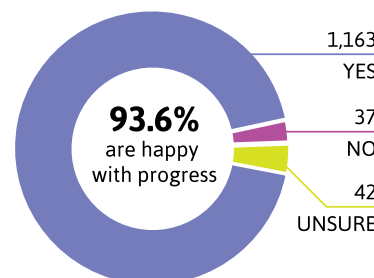
“Does your child feel safe in his/her scholarship school?”



ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE:

parents responded to the question

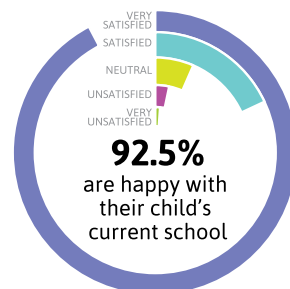
“Are you happy with your child’s academic progress at his/her school?”



PARENTAL SATISFACTION:

parents responded to the question

“Overall, how satisfied are you with your child’s current school?”



Including the sanctioned schools, schools in the New Orleans area that have been enrolling scholarship students for multiple years out-performed the program schools participating in the scholarship program for the first time in 2012–2013.

HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION FOR LOUISIANA FAMILIES

Louisiana leads the nation in enforcing clear, rigorous accountability standards to ensure the Louisiana Scholarship Program provides high-quality options for Louisiana families.

Financial Accountability

In order to uphold the public trust, the scholarship program has several policies in place to ensure the proper use of public funds. Payment to Louisiana scholarship schools is variable and is based on the tuition and fees charged to each non-scholarship student. Scholarship awards are capped at the per pupil Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) amount for the student's home parish, ensuring that payments do not exceed the cost to send a child to public school. Schools with tuition and fees at or above two-thirds of the MFP per pupil amount for the district in which the school is located are only allowed to receive a five percent annual increase in payment.



AVERAGE COST TO SEND A SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT TO A SCHOLARSHIP SCHOOL

→ \$5,245

AVERAGE COST TO SEND A SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT TO C, D, OR F PUBLIC SCHOOL

→ \$8,537

COST SAVINGS PER STUDENT TO LOUISIANA

→ \$3,292

TOTAL SAVINGS IN 2012-2013:

\$ 1 5 , 2 4 5 , 2 5 2

All nonpublic schools participating in the scholarship program receive an annual independent financial audit. This is a rigorous process to ensure that all parties involved are following the guidelines established by the Louisiana Legislature and BESE. Of the 117 schools audited during the 2012-2013 school year, all but one was found to be compliant with Bulletin 133. The Department took swift action to correct both the minor findings noted by the auditors, including tuition and enrollment payment variances, and to correct a major infraction identified in the independent financial audit process- ultimately removing the school in violation from the program.

Academic Accountability

Scholarship students must take the same assessments as students in public schools. Student achievement on these assessments is used to determine the status of a school's continued participation in the program.

Because some schools are larger participants than others in the program, and thus take on a larger share of the public trust, accountability criteria vary depending on the number of scholarship students enrolled in the school. Schools with an average of 10 or more scholarship students per grade, or 40 or more students enrolled in tested grades, receive a performance score called a Scholarship Cohort Index (SCI). The SCI is calculated in a similar manner to the School Performance Score (SPS) outlined in Bulletin 111; however, the SCI is based only on students participating in the scholarship program. For the 2012–2013 school year, scholarship schools' SCI is based entirely on scholarship student performance on state assessments. Like public schools, scholarship schools that demonstrate progress among students who are below grade level can earn up to 10 bonus points. Twenty-three schools, representing just 59 percent of tested students in the scholarship program, received a 2013 SCI. The data should not be used to make inferences or draw conclusions about the academic proficiency levels of every scholarship recipient, or all students enrolled at participating nonpublic schools.

Scholarship Cohort Index

Site Code	School	2013 SCI
872001	Bishop McManus School	21.8
506088	Cathedral Academy*	29.5
719001	Evangel Christian Academy**	39.6
506157	Good Shepherd Nativity Mission School	73.4
506020	Holy Ghost Elementary School	41
702001	Hosanna Christian Academy**	41.5
664001	New Living Word School*, **	20.7
506038	Our Lady of Grace School**	56.6
506041	Our Lady of Perpetual Help School	44
506044	Our Lady of Prompt Succor School	53.5
502012	Redemptorist Diocesan Regional High School**	~
502041	Redemptorist Diocesan Regional Junior HS**	29
502021	Redemptorist Elementary School**	18.6
506048	Resurrection of Our Lord School	71.1
506054	St. Agnes School	54.9
506055	St. Alphonsus School	47.5
506129	St. Augustine Jr. High School**	49.4
506159	St. Benedict the Moor	93.8
506079	St. Joan of Arc School	50.5
506087	St. Leo the Great School	72.1
506095	St. Mary's Academy	47.6
506105	St. Peter Claver School	49.1
506111	St. Rita School	62.2

* No longer participating in the scholarship program in 2013–2014

** Participated in the scholarship program for the first time in 2012–2013

The Louisiana Department of Education has modified and/or suppressed data reported to protect the privacy of students in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) codified at 20 U.S.C. 1232g. The strategies used to protect privacy vary and may include rounding or other techniques but do not substantially affect the general usefulness of the data. Because of the privacy protections numerical and percentage totals may not add precisely to the sum of the row or column to which the total refers.

~ indicates statistically unreliable (i.e. Less than 10 students in a subgroup or subgroup not defined at that time)



Beginning with the 2012–2013 school year, if a school receives an SCI below 50 in the second year of participation or in any year thereafter, the school shall not enroll additional scholarship recipients for the next school year.

The Department is committed to enforcing the accountability measures outlined in Bulletin 133 to ensure the Scholarship Program provides high-quality options for Louisiana’s families. While SCI sanctions do not begin until the 2014–15 school year, the Department utilized specific criteria to sanction participating schools based on 2012–13 state testing data. Seven schools that had participated in the program for at least two years, had at least 10 tested students, and had proficiency ratings of less than 25 percent were restricted in their ability to accept new students for the 2013–14 school year.

CONCLUSION

The ability to choose where their child attends school is a fundamental right of a parent. Louisiana is committed to respecting this right. At the same time, the Louisiana Scholarship Program will continue to emphasize the importance of accountability— providing additional high-quality seats at a wide variety of schools across the state. In Louisiana, families’ choices are valued and will continue to play a vital role in the state’s efforts to provide the best education possible to students— regardless of their demography or geography.

[CLICK TO SEE APPENDIX](#)

- [2012-2013 Scholarship Program Quarter 1 Enrollment](#)
- [Spring 2013 Scholarship Student Proficiency Rates](#)
- [Retention Rates for Quarter 1 2012 to Quarter 1 2013](#)
- [C, D, and F Public Schools 2011-2012 School Year](#)