

## Office of School Choice

# School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities Family Participation Guide

(Revised December 2023)

## Overview

The [School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities \(SCP\)](#) empowers families of qualifying students with the financial resources to choose the school that will best address their students' needs. The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) will conduct a lottery to award student participation, with a priority given to continuing students.

## School Eligibility and Participation

In order for a nonpublic school to participate in the program the school must:

- Be an [Approved Nonpublic School by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education \(BESE\)](#);
- Have provided educational services to students with exceptionalities for at least two years prior to participation;
- Employ teachers that hold appropriate certification in special education;
- Comply with the non-discrimination criteria set forth in *Brumfield, et al. v. Dodd*.
  - Must be approved by the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) that all school policies comply with [Brumfield, et al. v Dodd](#).
- Operates in a parish with a recent census population greater than 190,000 persons. The 2023-2024 parishes include:
  - Caddo
  - Calcasieu
  - East Baton Rouge
  - Jefferson
  - Lafayette
  - Orleans
  - St. Tammany

***Please note:*** Not all participating schools offer services for every exceptionality. For questions about the services offered at each school, please refer to [Appendix B](#) or contact the school using the contact information provided in [Appendix A](#).

## Student Eligibility and Participation

Students participating in the SCP must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

- Student has been evaluated by a Louisiana public school district and determined to have any one of the following exceptionalities:
  - Autism
  - Developmental Delay
  - Mental Disability
  - Other Health Impairment
  - Specific Learning Disability
  - Traumatic Brain Injury
- The student has a current Individual Education Plan or district provided services plan
- The student is eligible to attend a Louisiana public school in grades K-12
  - a resident of Louisiana
  - 5 years of age by September 30 of the upcoming year

## Student Application

Families wishing for their student to participate in this program must complete the [online student application](#) annually and submit the required program documents to their first choice school by the application deadline.

The application opens annually in early February and closes early March. To access the application, families should visit the [SCP website](#).

**Both new and returning students must complete an application yearly to be considered for a scholarship award.**

Families applying for **new students** must provide the following eligibility documents when submitting an application:

- Copy of student's current Individualized Education Program (IEP) or district provided service plan
- One proof of residency documentation. Acceptable documents to verify residency include one of the following:
  - Rental agreement or mortgage statement
  - Landline telephone bill
  - Cable or internet service bill
  - Sewerage or water bill
  - Electricity or gas bill
  - A current property tax notice
  - Official Letter from a Government Agency such as the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH)

***Please note: Documentation must be in the parent and/or guardian's name and must match the student's address listed on the application.***

***\*Continuing Students are not required to provide eligibility documentation.***

Once the application closes, all applications are reviewed for eligibility. Continuing students are awarded scholarships first, and the Department will conduct a lottery to determine which new students are awarded a scholarship.

Scholarships are awarded contingent upon funding availability and based on the availability of services at participating schools .

- Application Timeline:
  - February – Application opens
  - March – Application closes and verification due to first choice school
  - Late April/Beginning of May – LDOE notifies families of award status

Each participating school has discretion in maintaining their own admissions criteria and may decide whether or not to admit and enroll a student. However, all admissions criteria must align with what is in the student handbook.

## Scholarship Amount

Families participating in this program receive an educational certificate, which is paid directly to the school on behalf of the family. The certificate is worth either approximately 50% of the per-pupil allocation of state funds to the student’s local school district, or the school’s tuition and fees, whichever is less. If the school’s tuition and fees exceed the certificate amount, the parents are responsible for paying the difference.

If you have additional questions or are interested in participating in the School Program Program, please visit our [website](#) or reach out to the Office of School Choice at [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov).

## Appendix A: List of Participating Schools

2024-2025 School Choice Program Participating Schools				
Site Code	Parish	School Name	Grades Served	Phone
506134	St. Tammany	Archbishop Hannan	8-12	985-249-6363
506127	Jefferson	Archbishop Rummel Jr	8-9	504-834-5592
506005	Jefferson	Archbishop Rummel Sr	10-12	504-834-5593
502048	East Baton Rouge	Diocese of BR SPED	K-8	225-336-8735 ext. 1210
560001	Jefferson	Ecole Classique	K-12	504-887-3507
705001	East Baton Rouge	Greater Baton Rouge Hope Academy	K-12	225-293-0141
505002	Calcasieu	Immaculate Conception Cathedral School	K-8	(337) 433-3497
506034	St. Tammany	Our Lady of the Lake	K-7	504-237-1785
505005	Calcasieu	Our Lady Queen of Heaven	K-8	337-477-7349
505006	Calcasieu	Our Lady's School	K-8	337-527-7828
711001	Orleans	Raphael Academy	9-12	504-524-5955
506062	Jefferson	St. Benilde	K-7	504-833-9894
506067	Jefferson	St. Christopher School	K-7	504-837-6871
505009	Calcasieu	St. Louis Catholic High	9-12	337-436-7275 ext. 229
505010	Calcasieu	St. Margaret Catholic School	K-8	337-436-7959
506099	Orleans	St. Michael Special School (New Orleans)	K-12	504-524-7285
502036	East Baton Rouge	St. Michael the Archangel (Baton Rouge)	9-12	225-753-9782
506101	St. Tammany	St. Paul's School (Boys)	8-12	985-892-3200 ext 1943
506103	St. Tammany	St. Peter Catholic School	K-7	985-892-1831
506161	Jefferson	St. Therese	K-12	504-513-4400
694001	East Baton Rouge	The Brighton School	1-12	225-291-2524
692003	East Baton Rouge	The Dunham School	K-12	225-767-7097

## Appendix B: Special Education Services Offered

### 2024-2025 School Choice Program Participating Schools

School			Services Offered						
Site Code	Parish	School Name	Autism	Developmental Delay	Emotional Disturbance	Mental Disability	Other Health Impairment	Specific Learning Disability	Traumatic Brain Injury
506134	St. Tammany	Archbishop Hannan	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
506127	Jefferson	Archbishop Rummel Jr	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
506005	Jefferson	Archbishop Rummel Sr	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
502048	East Baton Rouge	Diocese of BR SPED	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
560001	Jefferson	Ecole Classique	✓	✓			✓	✓	
705001	East Baton Rouge	Greater Baton Rouge Hope Academy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
505002	Calcasieu	Immaculate Conception Cathedral School	✓	✓			✓	✓	
506034	St. Tammany	Our Lady of the Lake	✓	✓			✓	✓	
505005	Calcasieu	Our Lady Queen of Heaven	✓	✓			✓	✓	
505006	Calcasieu	Our Lady's School	✓						
711001	Orleans	Raphael Academy	✓				✓	✓	
506062	Jefferson	St. Benilde	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
506067	Jefferson	St. Christopher School	✓	✓			✓	✓	
505009	Calcasieu	St. Louis Catholic High	✓	✓				✓	
505010	Calcasieu	St. Margaret Catholic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
506099	Orleans	St. Michael Special School (New Orleans)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
502036	East Baton Rouge	St. Michael the Archangel (Baton Rouge)	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
506101	St. Tammany	St. Paul's School (Boys)	✓				✓	✓	
506103	St. Tammany	St. Peter Catholic School	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
506161	Jefferson	St. Therese	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
694001	East Baton Rouge	The Brighton School	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
692003	East Baton Rouge	The Dunham School	✓	✓			✓	✓	