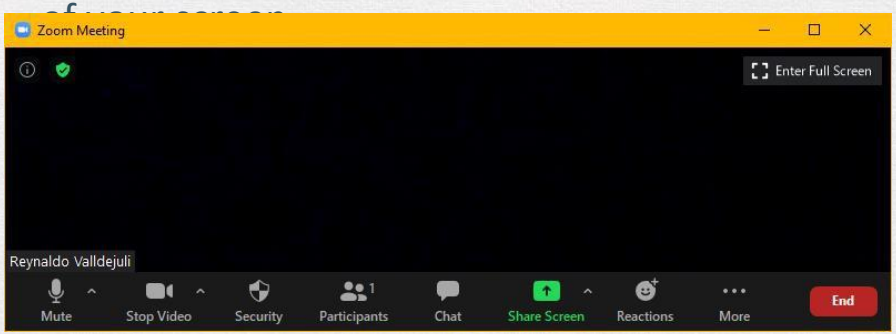
Zoom Meeting Preparation

- 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.



If you require an interpreter or have other accessibility needs for future LDOE meetings, please contact LDOEcommunications@la.gov.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Louisiana Scholarship Program Application Process Webinar

December 6, 2022

Louisiana's Goals and Priorities

SIX CRITICAL GOALS

- Students enter kindergarten ready.
- Students will achieve mastery on third-grade assessments and enter fourth grade prepared for grade-level content.
- Students will achieve mastery on eighth-grade assessments and enter ninth grade prepared for grade-level content.
- Students will graduate on time.
- Students will graduate with a college and/or career credential.
- Students will graduate eligible for a TOPS award.

EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES

- Ensure every student is on track to a professional career, college degree, or service.
- Remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children.
- Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment.
- Develop and retain a diverse, highly effective educator workforce.
- Cultivate high-impact systems, structures, and partnerships

Agenda

1. About the Louisiana Scholarship Program
2. Who is Eligible for a Scholarship?
3. Who Needs to Submit an Application
4. Submitting your Application
5. Verifying Your Eligibility
6. Scholarship Awards -Match and Lottery
7. Frequently Asked Questions

About the Louisiana Scholarship Program

- The Louisiana Scholarship Program provides thousands of low-income families who would otherwise attend C, D, F, or T rated public schools with the opportunity to send their child to the participating school of their choice.
- Applicants are eligible to receive state-funded Scholarships to enroll in participating nonpublic schools or high performing public schools.
  - The scholarship covers all tuition and fees
- In the 2022-23 school year, nearly 6,000 students are attending approximately 136 nonpublic schools of their choice.

Who is Eligible for a Scholarship

Applicants will be:

1. Current Scholarship students in the highest grade at their school or transferring to another school
2. K-11 students currently enrolled at public schools with C/D/F/T SPS letter grade for 2022
3. Children entering Kindergarten for the first time

All new applicants must meet income and residency requirements.

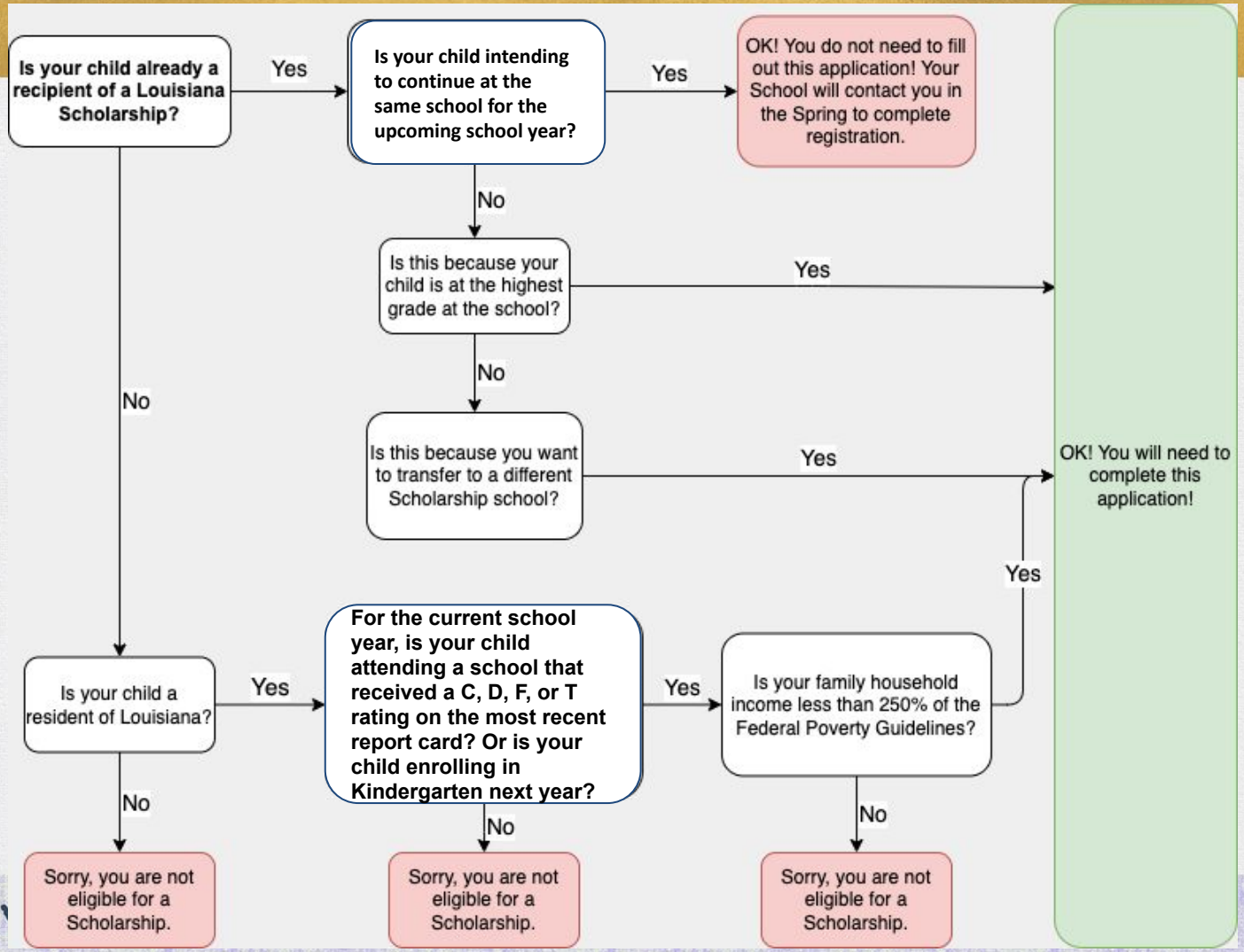
***New Scholarship Student* – A student who will be awarded a Scholarship for the first time and did not receive an LSP scholarship in the current 2022-23 school year.**

Who Needs to Submit an Application

- Students who are applying to the Scholarship Program for the first time
- **Continuing Students who wish to transfer to another participating scholarship school and those in a terminal grade will need to submit an application for the 2023-24 school year.**

Please Note: Schools will collect all income and residency verification and documentation from parents for both new and continuing students during the application cycle.

- *This information is kept on file at your school for audit purposes for both new and continuing students*


Is your child already a recipient of a Louisiana Scholarship?
Yes
Is your child intending to continue at the same school for the upcoming school year?
Yes
OK! You do not need to fill out this application! Your School will contact you in the Spring to complete registration.
No
Is this because your child is at the highest grade at the school?
Yes
No
Is this because you want to transfer to a different Scholarship school?
Yes
OK! You will need to complete this application!
No
Yes
Is your child a resident of Louisiana?
Yes
For the current school year, is your child attending a school that received a C, D, F, or T rating on the most recent report card? Or is your child enrolling in Kindergarten next year?
Yes
Is your family household income less than 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines?
No
No
No
Sorry, you are not eligible for a Scholarship.
Sorry, you are not eligible for a Scholarship.
Sorry, you are not eligible for a Scholarship.

Applicant Type	Description	Required Action(s) to be Considered for an Award
New Student	Any student applying to the Scholarship program for the first time in grades K-12.	• Complete a required application. • Take eligibility documentation to any school to which they applied and meet eligibility criteria.
NSECD Student	A rising Pre-K 4 student who is applying to the Scholarship program for kindergarten.	• Complete a required application • **NSECD students do not receive automatic placement into the Scholarship program.** • Take eligibility documentation to any school to which they applied and meet eligibility criteria.
"Terminal Grade" Student	Any current Scholarship student who is completing the final grade offered at their current school.	• Students in terminal grades must complete a new Scholarship application for the upcoming school year. • **Those students who are in a terminal grade who fail to reapply will lose their Scholarship award**. • Students in terminal grades do not need to provide eligibility documentation to be considered for an award.
Continuing Scholarship Student	Any current Scholarship student who will be continuing at the same school the upcoming year	• No application is needed. The student placement will automatically rollover to the current scholarship school for the upcoming year. • No action is necessary to receive an award to the same school for the upcoming year.
Continuing Scholarship Student (switching to a different school)	Any current Scholarship students who do not wish to continue at their current scholarship school.	• Students must complete a new Scholarship application for the upcoming school year. • Students do not need to provide eligibility documentation to be considered for an award.

Application Process Overview

Applying for a Louisiana Scholarship is a two-step process.

Step 1 is completion of this application.

Step 2 (for families applying for a Scholarship for a student *not currently enrolled as a Scholarship student in grades K-12*) is completion of the income and residency verification at a participating school.

Summary: How to Apply for a Scholarship

The 2023-24 Louisiana Scholarship application process begins on December 12th, 2022.

1. Determine if you are eligible
2. Fill out application here (link available on louisianabelieves.com) by **January 27th, 2023**
3. Go to any participating school to verify your income and residency by **January 27th, 2023**
4. Receive a notice from LDOE via mail/email in April if you are issued a scholarship or not
5. If offered an award, claim the award by registering at your matched school by the end of May

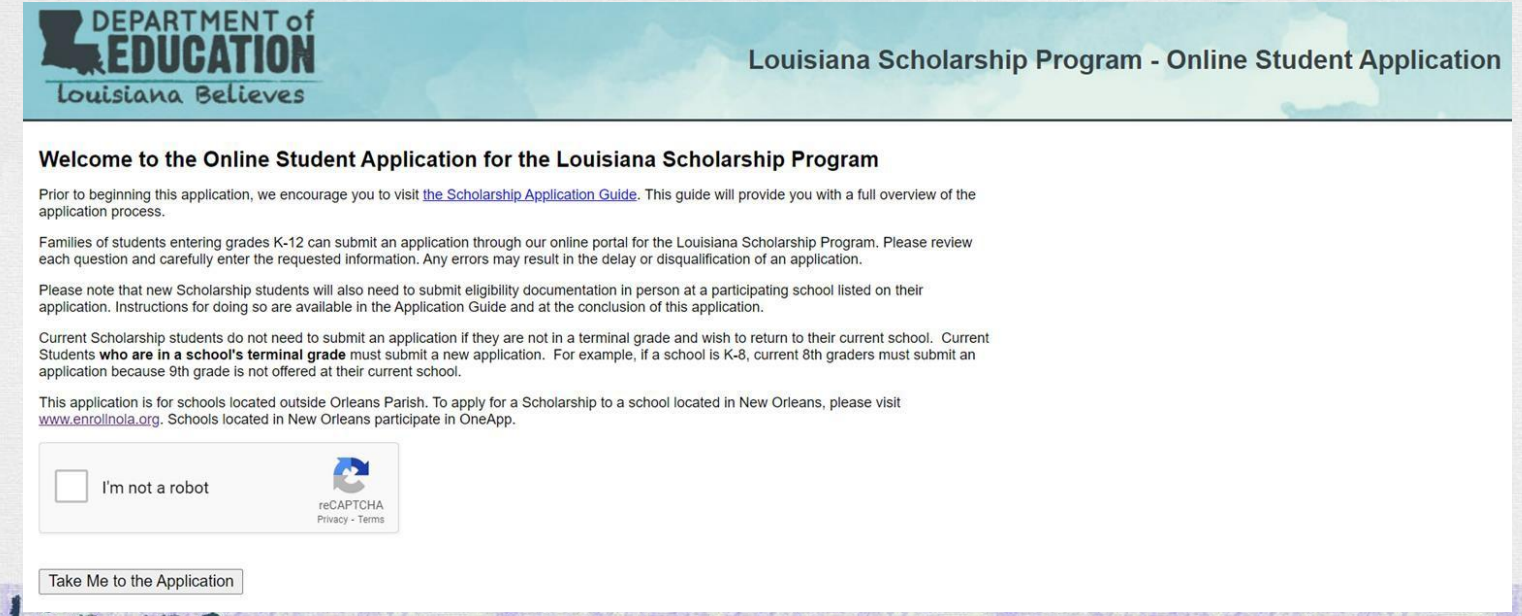
Scholarship Application Timeline 2022-23

STEP	DATE
Application Opens	**12/12/22**
Application Closes	**1/27/23**
Last Day to Submit Income and Residency Verification	**1/27/23**
Parent Notification Letters and Emails	April
Site Registration	April-May
Summer Transfer Window opens	June
Summer Transfer Window closes	July

Exact dates for awards and registration deadlines will be shared via email and on the website

Step 1: Submitting Your Application

- Apply for a Scholarship school via the Online Student Application Form beginning on December 12th, 2022
- Link will be available online here.



Submitting Your Application

Step 1: Student Eligibility Check

Is your child already a recipient of a Scholarship and intending to continue at the same school for the 2021-2022 School Year?	(●) No ( ) Yes
If you did NOT answer "Yes" to the above question, please confirm that your child meets each of the eligibility requirements below:	
1. Is my child a resident of Louisiana ?	( ) No (●) Yes
2. For the 2020-2021 School Year, did my child attend a school that received a "C", "D", or "F" on the most recent report card ? **OR** Will my child be attending Kindergarten for the first time ? *You can find a list of eligible schools on the LDOE website .*	( ) No (●) Yes
3. Is my family household income less than the amount listed on page 2 of the Scholarship Application Guide ?	( ) No (●) Yes

Continue

Submitting Your Application

Step 2: Online Submission Eligibility Check

Directions: the following questions will allow us to expedite your application process. If you receive an error message, this does not necessarily mean you are ineligible to receive a Scholarship.

1. What grade is your child entering for the 2021-2022 School Year? * Select One

Note: for all grades, please assume that your child will progress to the next grade level. Therefore, if your child is currently in 4th grade, please type 5th.

2. Student Social Security Number (999-99-9999) *

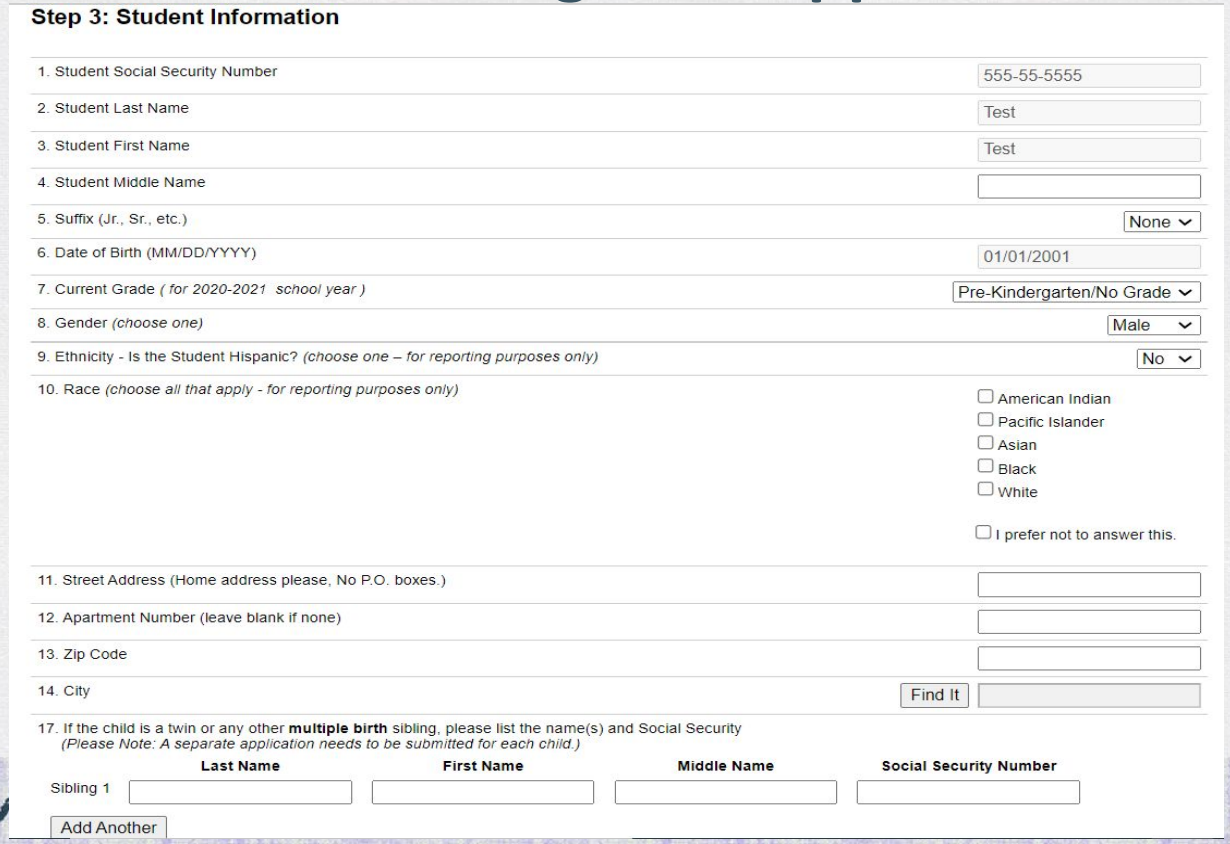
3. Student Last Name *

4. Student First Name *

5. Student Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) *

Continue

Submitting Your Application



Step 3: Student Information

1. Student Social Security Number	555-55-5555
2. Student Last Name	Test
3. Student First Name	Test
4. Student Middle Name	
5. Suffix (Jr., Sr., etc.)	None
6. Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	01/01/2001
7. Current Grade *(for 2020-2021 school year)*	Pre-Kindergarten/No Grade
8. Gender *(choose one)*	Male
9. Ethnicity - Is the Student Hispanic? *(choose one – for reporting purposes only)*	No
10. Race *(choose all that apply - for reporting purposes only)*	☐ American Indian ☐ Pacific Islander ☐ Asian ☐ Black ☐ White ☐ I prefer not to answer this.
11. Street Address (Home address please, No P.O. boxes.)	
12. Apartment Number (leave blank if none)	
13. Zip Code	
14. City	Find It

17. If the child is a twin or any other **multiple birth** sibling, please list the name(s) and Social Security
(Please Note: A separate application needs to be submitted for each child.)

	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Social Security Number
Sibling 1				

Add Another

Submitting Your Application

Step 3: Parent/Legal Guardian Information

1. Parent/ Legal Guardian Last Name	
2. Parent/ Legal Guardian First Name	
3. Parent/ Legal Guardian Middle Name	
4. Suffix (Jr., Sr., etc.)	None
5. Relationship to Student	
6. Mailing Address	
7. Apartment Number (leave blank if none)	
8. Zip Code	
9. City	Find It
10. Home Phone	
11. Cell Phone	
12. E-mail Address *(for confirmation and follow-up)*	
13. How did you hear about this program?	In a Newspaper

Submitting Your Application

Step 3: Sibling Information

Instructions: Please identify the student's siblings. Siblings will recieve priority to a school, although not a guaranteed placement, if one of your children already attends and will continue to attend that school next year. Please note: A separate application needs to be submitted for each child.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Social Security Number	School Name
				Select One

Add Another

Step 3: Income Verification

13. Annual Family Household Income	
14. Number in Family Household	2

Instructions:

A. If you participate in any one of the programs below, you must bring evidence to one of the schools selected on your application prior to the application deadline.

- Louisiana Purchase Card
- SNAP Benefits
- Social Security Benefits

B. If you do not participate in any of the programs listed above, please provide proof of income for every member of your household by bringing one of the following to one of the schools selected on your application prior to the application deadline.

- Federal Tax Return
- Unemployment compensation statement for the period ended December 31, 2020
- Social Security benefits statement for the period ended December 31, 2020
- Pension statements for the period ended December 31, 2020
- Placement form from DCFS, in the case of foster children

Submitting Your Application

Step 3: Residency Verification

Instructions:

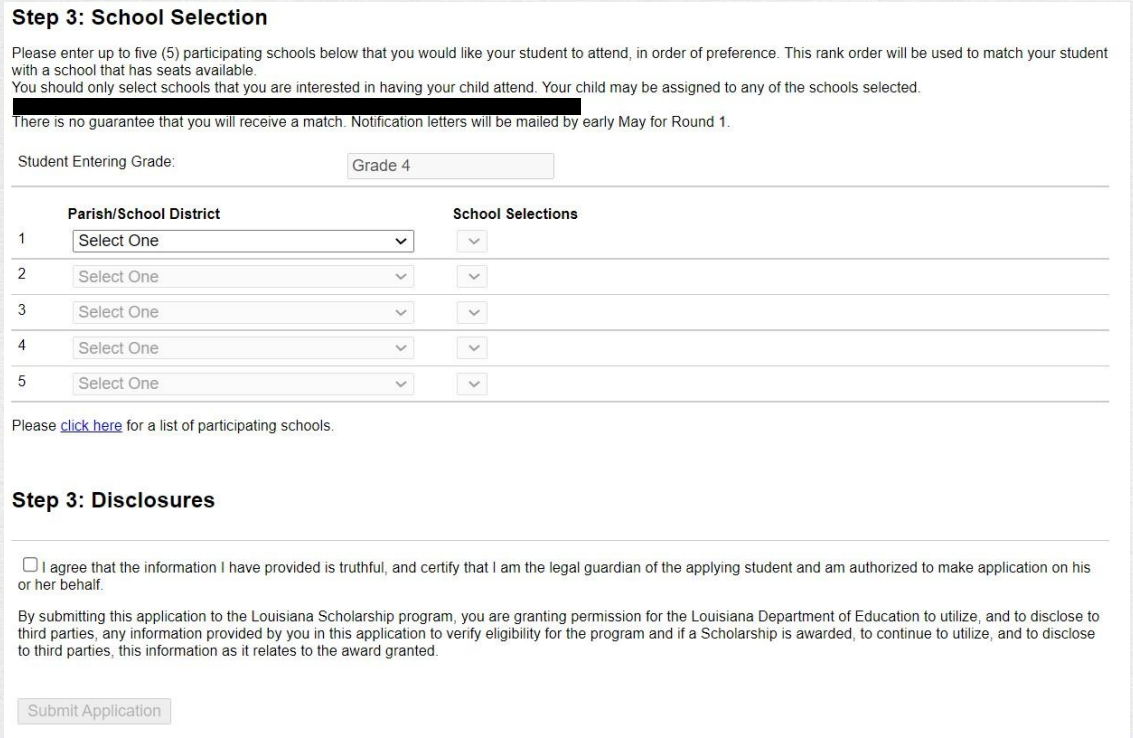
You must provide proof of residency by bringing a document below to one of the schools selected on your application prior to the application deadline.

The address of residency should be where the child lives and should match the student address you entered on your application. The documentation must verify residency for current date.

This proof can consist of any of the following:

- Rental lease agreement/mortgage agreement
- Electricity/Gas Bill
- Telephone Bill
- Cable or Internet service bill
- Sewage/water bill
- Current Official letter from a Government Agency (DCFS, DHH)
- Homestead Exemption Notice
- Property Tax notice

Submitting Your Application



Step 3: School Selection

Please enter up to five (5) participating schools below that you would like your student to attend, in order of preference. This rank order will be used to match your student with a school that has seats available.
You should only select schools that you are interested in having your child attend. Your child may be assigned to any of the schools selected.
[redacted]
There is no guarantee that you will receive a match. Notification letters will be mailed by early May for Round 1.

Student Entering Grade: Grade 4

	Parish/School District	School Selections
1	Select One	
2	Select One	
3	Select One	
4	Select One	
5	Select One	

Please click here for a list of participating schools.

Step 3: Disclosures

☐ I agree that the information I have provided is truthful, and certify that I am the legal guardian of the applying student and am authorized to make application on his or her behalf.

By submitting this application to the Louisiana Scholarship program, you are granting permission for the Louisiana Department of Education to utilize, and to disclose to third parties, any information provided by you in this application to verify eligibility for the program and if a Scholarship is awarded, to continue to utilize, and to disclose to third parties, this information as it relates to the award granted.

Submit Application

Step 2: Verifying Your Eligibility

Verification for applications **must** be submitted to schools in person.

- Go to any currently participating Scholarship school
  - A list of participating schools will be available on the Louisiana Believes website
- Bring any qualifying proof of income
- Bring any qualifying proof of residency

School staff will review documentation and mark your application as complete in our system.

Income Verification

Applicant parent/guardian must produce one of the following documents to verify their annual household income is below 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines:

- 2021 Federal Tax Return, total income*
- Last 4 check stubs
- Most recent unemployment compensation statement
- DCFS placement form, in the case of foster children
- Most recent pension statements
- Most recent Social Security benefits statement
- SNAP Benefits
- Any income verification, benefits statement, or award letter from a government entity or tax-reporting business
- Louisiana Purchase Card Budget Sheet or Benefits Statement

If awarded a Scholarship, a household must provide a 2022 tax return at time of registration in the Spring.

2022 LSP Income Limits

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY – 250% of Current Federal Poverty Guidelines				
FAMILY HOUSEHOLD SIZE	YEARLY INCOME	MONTHLY INCOME	BI-WEEKLY INCOME	WEEKLY INCOME
2	$45, 775	$3,815	$1,761	$880
3	$57,575	$4,798	$2,214	$1,107
4	$69,375	$5,781	$2,668	$1,334
5	$81,175	$6,765	$3,122	$1,561
6	$92,975	$7,748	$3,576	$1,788
7	$104,775	$8,731	$4,030	$2,015
8	$116,575	$9,715	$4,484	$2,242
Add the following for each additional family member.	$11,800	$983	$453	$227

Residency Verification

- Applicant parent/guardian must produce one of the following documents to verify their residency:
  - Rental lease agreement or mortgage
  - Electricity/Gas Bill
  - Telephone Bill (Must be a landline - cellular phone bills will not suffice)
  - Cable/Internet Service Bill
  - Sewerage/Water Bill
  - Current Official Letter from a Government Agency (DSS, DHH)
  - Homestead Exemption Notice
  - Property Tax Notice

Scholarship Awards: Match and Lottery

**** Filling out an application is not a guarantee of receiving an award ****

- Not all applying students are eligible
- Families must produce income/residency docs before the January 27th deadline
- Demand for some schools and grades is greater than availability
- Priority groups and random lottery number determines order of awarding scholarships
- Families are encouraged to choose multiple schools
- State funding determines final number of awards made

Scholarship Awards: Match and Lottery

- Honoring Family Choice
  a. Families rank schools in order of preference
  b. LDOE conducts random lottery
- Priority Groups (In Order)
  1. Transfers from closing Scholarship schools,
  2. Current NSECD applying to K at same site,
  3. Siblings of current Scholarship students at applied-to school,
  4. Current Scholarship students in highest grade at current school,
  5. Applications from F, then D, then C, then T graded public schools,
  6. Geographic preference (applicants residing in the same parish, if offered at the school)
  7. Transfers from one Scholarship school to another.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Do current scholarship students transferring to another scholarship school next year need to prove eligibility? No.
- Must the applicant be listed on the family household tax return when used as proof of income? No.
- What documents can be used to prove income if the family household has no income? Unemployment statement, social security benefits, SNAP benefits.
- Why isn't the W-2 acceptable for proof of income? W-2s and 1099s show individual income, but eligibility is based on household income.

Scholarship Application Timeline 2022-23

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Application Closes	**1/27/23**
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Parent Notification Letters and Emails	April
Site Registration	April-May
Summer Transfer Window opens	June
Summer Transfer Window closes	July

Exact dates for awards and registration deadlines will be shared via email and on the website

Thank You For Joining Today's Call!

Helpful Links:

- Information regarding the Louisiana Scholarship Programs can be found on our website at Louisiana Scholarship Program
- Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Statewide Scholarship Application

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT	EMAIL
Louisiana Scholarship Program	studentscholarships@la.gov