

SCHOOL CHOICE MATTERS

Louisiana Policy Report

Introduction

PURPOSE

A combination of well-designed policies give all students access to the broadest range of educational opportunities, including key core policies and helpful policy enhancers. The purpose of this document is to provide insight to how well your state is doing at implementing the Ecosystem of School Choice Policies. This state report summarizes evidence across the seven policy buckets, with each policy component detailed in individual cells.

CORE POLICIES

Key policies expand student opportunities.



[Open Enrollment](#)



[Charter Schools](#)



[Private School Choice](#)



[Homeschooling](#)

POLICY ENHANCERS

Supporting policies enhance those opportunities.



[Part-time Enrollment/Course Access](#)



[Learn Everywhere](#)



[Transportation](#)

CORE POLICIES



Open Enrollment in Louisiana

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
<p>Transfers Between Districts</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Sending and/or receiving districts have discretion over transfers (or are restricted based on state standards)</p>	<p>Louisiana Statute provides that the parent or legal guardian of any student in the state may enroll their children in the public school of their choice, “without regard to residence, school system geographic boundaries, or attendance zones” provided two requirements are met, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the public school in which the student was most recently enrolled, or would otherwise attend, received a school performance letter grade of “D” or “F” for the most recent school year; and the school in which the student seeks to enroll received a school performance letter grade of “A”, “B”, or “C” for the most recent school year and has sufficient capacity at the appropriate grade level. <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4035.1 Public school choice)</p> <p>Louisiana Statute also provides for transfers to schools in adjoining school systems where the student assigned to attend a public school is located more than one hour away from that school.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:105.1 Transfer to schools in an adjoining school system; conditions; exceptions; funding)</p> <p>In essence, the state has given districts discretion through their accountability rating and performance.</p>
<p>Transfers Within Districts</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>School officials can block transfers (or are restricted based on state standards)</p>	<p>Louisiana Statute provides that the parent or legal guardian of any student in the state may enroll their children in the public school of their choice, “without regard to residence, school system geographic boundaries, or attendance zones” provided two requirements are met, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the public school in which the student was most recently enrolled, or would otherwise attend, received a school performance letter grade of “D” or “F” for the most recent school year; and

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the school in which the student seeks to enroll received a school performance letter grade of “A”, “B”, or “C” for the most recent school year and has sufficient capacity at the appropriate grade level. <p>Statute provides that a school or governing authority may deny the enrollment request of a prospective student for an intradistrict transfer.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4035.1 Public school choice)</p> <p>Note that Louisiana also provides public high school programs of choice. “Program of choice” means a public high school program that allows a student to concurrently pursue a high school diploma and either (1) a postsecondary degree, credential, or certificate; or (2) a state registered apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship. Students are allowed to enroll in programs of choice offered within their school system, without regard to attendance zones, provided there is capacity, and the program of choice is not offered at the public high school in which the student was most recently enrolled or would otherwise attend.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4035.2 Public high school program of choice)</p>
<p>Year-round Transfer Window</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Restricted transfer window</p>	<p>Louisiana Statute provides that the transfer period must begin no later than March 1 and end no earlier than March 28, annually.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4035.1 Public school choice)</p> <p>Louisiana Statute relating to high school programs of choice have a similar transfer period, beginning no later than March 1 and ending no later than March 28, annually.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4035.2 Public high school program of choice)</p>
<p>Tuition-Free Public Schools</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Prohibition on parent tuition</p>	<p>Louisiana policy does not provide tuition for transfer students.</p>
<p>School Capacity Transparency</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>No transparency policy</p>	<p>Louisiana policy does not require school districts to publicly report capacity by school and grade level.</p>

<p>Transfer Data Transparency</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Information only collected and/or some data not reported</p>	<p>Louisiana Statute requires the State Board to report to the House and Senate Committees on Education information on student transfers annually – this includes the following information, all disaggregated by economically disadvantaged status and race and ethnicity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of interdistrict student transfer requests received, accepted, appealed, and denied during the most recent school year; and • the number of intradistrict student transfer requests received, accepted, appealed, and denied during the most recent school year. <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4035.1 Public school choice)</p>
<p>Transparent Appeal Process</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Louisiana Statute provides that if a school or governing authority denies the enrollment request of a student for an intradistrict transfer, the parent may request that the State Board review the transfer requested.</p> <p>The State Board must determine if the capacity policy established by the school was followed.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4035.1 Public school choice; see Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, Appeals of Denied School Transfer Requests)</p>

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes	Administrative Code	State Department of Education
<p>La. Rev. Stat. 17:105.1 Transfer to schools in an adjoining school system; conditions; exceptions; funding</p> <p>La. Rev. Stat. 17:4035.1 Public school choice</p> <p>La. Rev. Stat. 17:4035.2 Public high school program of choice</p>	<p>La. BESE Bulletin 741 – Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators; 3501 Student Transfer Requests</p>	<p>Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, Appeals of Denied School Transfer Requests</p>



Charter Schools in Louisiana

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
<p>Multiple Charter Authorizers</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>No real authorizer options</p>	<p>Louisiana has enacted the Charter School Demonstration Programs Law.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:3971 Charter School Demonstration Programs Law)</p> <p>Louisiana Statute provides for two types of charter school authorizers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (La. Rev. Stat. 17:3981 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; powers and duties relative to charter schools) • Local school boards (La. Rev. Stat. 17:3982 Local school boards; duties; Orleans Parish School Board; immovable property; sale or lease) <p>Note: Louisiana Statute includes the following types of charter schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type 1: new school, charter between nonprofit corporation and local school board • Type 2: new school or preexisting public school converted, charter between nonprofit corporation and the State Board; • Type 3: preexisting public school converted, charter between nonprofit corporation and local school board; • Type 4: preexisting public school converted or new school, charter between local school board and State Board • Type 5: Preexisting public school transferred to the Recovery School District <p>(Type 3B charter schools are former Type 5 charter schools that have been transferred from the Recovery School District back to the local school system.)</p>

<p>Charter Appeal Process</p>	<p>YES Independent appeals process</p>	<p>For applications that have been denied by a local school board, a charter school applicant may submit its proposal to the State Board for review to become approved as a Type 2 charter.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:3982 Local school boards; duties; Orleans Parish School Board; immovable property; sale or lease; La. Rev. Stat. 17:3983 Chartering process by type; eligibility; limitations; faculty approval; parental approval)</p> <p>There is no similar process in place for denials of applications by the State Board.</p>
<p>Charter Regulatory Flexibility</p>	<p>LIMITED Some or no exemptions</p>	<p>Louisiana Statute provides that proposals to the State Board to create a charter school must require the proposed school to do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws, rules, and regulations; • The accounting and financial practices to be used must be sound and in accordance with generally accepted standards; • The educational program must comply with all requirements in the charter school law and be based on generally accepted education research findings, including school discipline practices and policies that incorporate positive behavior interventions and supports, restorative justice, and other research-based discipline practices and classroom management strategies, and otherwise conform to the model master discipline plan established in statute. <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:3983 Chartering process by type; eligibility; limitations; faculty approval; parental approval)</p> <p>Louisiana requires charter schools to employ instructional staff who have at least a baccalaureate degree and are subject to background checks applicable to the employment of public school personnel.</p> <p>Statute also specifies that local school boards are prohibited from assigning any student or employee to a charter school or “interfere in any way with the operation and management of a charter school.”</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:3991 Charter schools; requirements; limitations; renewal; amendment; revocation; board membership)</p> <p>Louisiana Statute then specifically provides that charter schools are “exempt from all rules and regulations of the state board and those of any local school board that are applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees”, unless specifically provided for in a charter, and except for the following enumerated exceptions:</p> <p>(1) Building maintenance.</p>

- (2) Facility accessibility.
- (3) Asbestos detection and abatement.
- (4) The Sanitary Code.
- (5) Pesticide use and safety.
- (6) Fire safety.
- (7) Safe work environments.
- (8) The possession and safe use of weapons and hazardous materials.
- (9) Adolescent health initiatives and school health centers.
- (10) Hearing and vision screenings.
- (11) Immunizations and health records.
- (12) Communicable disease prevention.
- (13) Drug use prevention.
- (14) Eye safety and the use of protective goggles.
- (15) Missing children identification procedures.
- (16) Repealed by Acts 2012, No. 2, §2.
- (17) School and district accountability system.
- (18) School bus specifications and inspection requirements.
- (19) School bus operational procedures.
- (20) School bus operator and bus attendant pre-employment screening and training requirements.

Charter schools are also, unless specifically provided for in a charter, exempt from all statutory mandates and other statutory requirements that are applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees, except for 81 specific exceptions explained in the Revised Statute.

Statute also provides that the provisions of any collective bargaining agreement entered by a local school board in the jurisdiction in which the charter school is located will be applied to a charter school, unless specifically provided for in the approved charter.

[\(La. Rev. Stat. 17:3996 Charter schools; exemptions; requirements\)](#)

<p>Equitable Charter Funding</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Disparities exist</p>	<p>Charter school funding depends on the type of charter school – for type 1, 3, 3B, and 4, the charter school is considered an approved public school of the local school board entering the charter agreement. For these schools, the per pupil amount is computed annually and must be equal to the per pupil amount provided through the minimum foundation program formula, determined by the allocation weights in the formula based upon student characteristics or needs, received by the school district in which the student resides from these sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State-funded per pupil allocation, based upon the weighted student membership count – this may include supplementary allocations • Local revenues from various sources. <p>Type 2 charter schools and Type 3B schools acting as their own local education agency will receive a per pupil amount each year authorized by the State Board and provided in the approved minimum foundation program formula.</p> <p>Approved charter schools are also eligible for any other federal, restricted state, and unrestricted state funding for which the school or its students qualify.</p> <p>Louisiana Statute does provide for some limitations on this, depending on the type of charter school and where it is located.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:3995 Charter school funding)</p> <p>Louisiana also provides for a Louisiana Charter School Start-Up Loan Fund, providing schools with initial start-up funding and funding for the administrative and legal costs associated with the process.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4001 Louisiana Charter School Start-Up Loan Fund; creation; purpose; distribution; see also Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Charter School Start-Up Loan Guidelines)</p>
<p>Charter Facilities Funding</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Some or no facilities funding</p>	<p>Louisiana Statute requires local school boards to make available to chartering groups any vacant school facilities or any facility “slated to be vacant for lease or purchase up to fair market value.” Statute specifies that, in return for use of the facilities and contents, the chartering group must pay a proportionate share of the local school board’s bonded indebtedness. If the facilities were constructed at no cost to the school board, the facilities, including the equipment, books, instructional materials, and furniture within, must be provided to the charter school at no cost.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:3982 Local school boards; duties; Orleans Parish School Board; immovable property; sale or lease)</p>

		<p>Louisiana Statute relating to charter school funding provides that, so long as there is an appropriation by the legislature and in addition to any other funds received, new charter schools must receive for each student based on average daily membership in the charter school for the first five years of its existence, an amount equaling the average per student budgeted amount for each of those five years by the district in which the charter school is located for facility acquisition and construction services.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:3995 Charter school funding)</p> <p>Charter schools in Louisiana also have access to tax-exempt and taxable bond financing through the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority for financing or refinancing educational services and facilities.</p>
<p>Options for High-Performing Charters</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>High-performing charter schools receive incentives and a favorable regulatory environment</p>	<p>Louisiana Statute provides that the State Board must create a process to authorize multiple charter schools for qualified chartering groups that have shown a demonstrated record of success. Chartering groups that meet specific criteria would be eligible to apply for and be granted approval of multiple charter agreements through a single application. Once certain specified performance targets are met, the chartering group may open a subsequent approved school.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:3983 Chartering process by type; eligibility; limitations; faculty approval; parental approval)</p> <p>Further, Statute provides that charter schools that meet the following requirements will be deemed high-performing schools, and their charters will be automatically renewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met or exceeded for the three preceding school years the benchmarks established for it in accordance with the school and district accountability system; • Has demonstrated growth in student academic achievement for the three preceding school years; and • Has had no significant audit findings during the term of the charter agreement. <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:3992 Charter revision and renewal)</p>
<p>Charter Zoning Exemptions</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Less than full protections</p>	<p>While Louisiana Statute provides some broad exemptions or waivers for laws and regulations, exemptions from local zoning and ordinances are not addressed in policy.</p>

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes	Administrative Code	State Department of Education	Other Resources
<p>La. Rev. Stat. 17:3971 Charter School Demonstration Programs Law</p> <p>La. Rev. Stat. 17:3973 Definitions</p> <p>La. Rev. Stat. 17:3981 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; powers and duties relative to charter schools</p> <p>La. Rev. Stat. 17:3982 Local school boards; duties; Orleans Parish School Board; immovable property; sale or lease</p> <p>La. Rev. Stat. 17:3983 Chartering process by type; eligibility; limitations; faculty approval; parental approval</p> <p>La. Rev. Stat. 17:3991 Charter schools; requirements; limitations; renewal; amendment; revocation; board membership</p> <p>La. Rev. Stat. 17:3992 Charter revision and renewal</p> <p>La. Rev. Stat. 17:3995 Charter school funding</p> <p>La. Rev. Stat. 17:3996 Charter schools; exemptions; requirements</p>	<p>Louisiana Bulletin 126 – Charter Schools</p>	<p>Louisiana Dept of Education, Louisiana Charter Schools At-A-Glance</p> <p>Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Charter School Start-Up Loan Guidelines</p>	<p>Louisiana Public Facilities Authority</p>

La. Rev. Stat. 17:4001 Louisiana Charter School Start-Up Loan Fund; creation; purpose; distribution			
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Private School Choice in Louisiana

POLICY	OVERALL RATING	PROGRAM OVERVIEW
<p>Universal Eligibility</p>	<p>YES</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off % of all students served</i></p>	<p>LIMITED</p>
		<p>Tuition Donation Credit Program Louisiana Statute provides scholarships to qualified students on a first-come, first served basis.</p> <p>“Qualified student” is defined to mean a child who is a member of a family that resides in the state with a total household income that does not exceed an amount equal to 250% of the federal poverty level based on the federal poverty guidelines established by the federal office of management and budget who meets any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is a student who is entering kindergarten for the first time; • is a student who attended a public school the previous year; • is a student who received a scholarship from a school tuition organization or the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program for the previous school year. <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 47:6301 Credit; donations to school tuition organizations)</p>
		<p>LIMITED</p> <p>School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities The School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities was designed to provide certain students with exceptionalities the opportunity to attend schools of their parents’ choosing that provide educational services that specifically address the needs of such students.</p> <p>This program is only available in parishes with a population over 190,000, according to the most recent federal census.</p> <p>An Eligible student is one that has been “evaluated by a local education agency as defined in [statute], is determined to be in need of services for autism, a mental disability, emotional disturbance, developmental delay, other health impairment, specific learning disability, or traumatic brain injury, and has one of the following plans: an Individual Education Plan, a services plan in accordance with Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 300.37, or a plan that is created by the nonpublic school that the student will attend and that clearly</p>

			<p>identifies the services provided by the school and specifies how those services adequately address the student’s needs.” These students must also be eligible to attend public school.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:331 School choice program; students with exceptionalities; establishment; purpose; student eligibility; nonpublic school eligibility; educational certificates; administration; implementation; reporting)</p> <p>The Louisiana Department of Education notes the following parishes that are eligible for this program: Caddo, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Lafayette, Orleans, and St. Tammany.</p> <p>(Louisiana Dept of Education, School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities)</p>
		<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program</p> <p>Louisiana Statute defines “eligible student” to mean a student living in the state, that is a member of a family with a total income that does not exceed 250% of the current federal poverty guidelines as established by the federal office of management and budget, and who meets any one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is entering kindergarten and has enrolled in the local school system in which the public school they would have otherwise attended is located or in a school under the jurisdiction of the Recovery School Districts. • was enrolled in a public school in Louisiana on October 1 and on February 1 of the most recent school year pursuant to the definition of student membership established by the state board for purposes of the minimum foundation program formula, and such school received a letter grade of “C”, “D”, or “F” or any variation, for the most recent year pursuant to the school and district accountability system. • received a scholarship in the previous school year. <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4013 Definitions)</p> <p>Following passage of a bill in the Louisiana Legislature in 2024, this program will cease to operate, effective June 30, 2025.</p> <p>(Senate Bill 313, Louisiana Legislature (2024))</p>

		<p>YES</p>	<p>Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR Scholarship Program) Enacted in 2024, the Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise Program (LA GATOR Scholarship Program), creates an opportunity for parents to set aside part of their tax dollars in an educational scholarship account to provide educational opportunities for their child.</p> <p>Students are eligible if they meet both of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student’s parent submits an application for an account, following procedures established by the Department; • The student’s parent agrees in writing to do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide an education for the participating student in at least English language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science; • To use account funds only for qualified education expenses of the participating student; • To comply with all program requirements. <p>Initial eligibility will be phased in as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the first phase, a student is initially eligible if the student meets one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the student participated in the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program for the previous school year – these students will be given priority. • the student is entering kindergarten. • the student was enrolled in a public school for the previous school year. • the student is from a family with a total income at or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines. <p>In the second phase, a student is initially eligible if the student meets one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the student is entering kindergarten. • the student was enrolled in a public school for the previous school year. • the student is from a family with a total income at or below 400% of the federal poverty guidelines. • In the third phase, all qualified Louisiana K-12 students are initially eligible – priority will be given to the following groups of students, with equal consideration:
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a student who meets the criteria for qualification to participate in the School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities. • a student who is from a family with a total income at or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines. <p>(Senate Bill 313, Louisiana Legislature (2024))</p>
<p>Comparable Student Funding</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Funding below 90%</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off program with largest number of students (Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program)</i></p>	<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>Tuition Donation Credit Program</p> <p>Louisiana Statute limits the amount of a scholarship provided by the school tuition organization.</p> <p>The scholarship for students in grades K-8 may not exceed actual tuition and mandatory fees or 80% of the state average Minimum Foundation Program per pupil funding amount for the previous year, whichever is less.</p> <p>The scholarship for students in grades 9-12 may not exceed actual tuition and mandatory fees or 90% of the state average Minimum Foundation Program per pupil funding amount for the previous year, whichever is less.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 47:6301 Credit; donations to school tuition organizations)</p> <p>Families are responsible for paying school tuition and fees that exceed the scholarship amount.</p> <p>(Louisiana Dept of Education, Tuition Donation Credit Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs))</p>
		<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities</p> <p>Parents of eligible students who choose to enroll their student in an eligible nonpublic school may apply for an educational certificate. The educational certificate is to be applied to the cost of educational services offered by the school and redeemable by the school. The value of each certificate must be equivalent to 50% of the per pupil allocation of state funds to the city, parish, or other local public school district in which the eligible student is residing – this amount must not exceed the amount of tuition charged by the eligible nonpublic school.</p> <p>Note that Louisiana Statute provides that any cost of educational services above the amount of the certificate will not be paid by the state.</p>

			<p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4031 School choice program; students with exceptionalities; establishment; purpose; student eligibility; nonpublic school eligibility; educational certificates; administration; implementation; reporting)</p>
		<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program Louisiana Statute requires the Department to allocate annually an amount per pupil to each participating school equal to the amount allocated per pupil as provided in the minimum foundation program formula, inclusive of the calculations of both the local and state per pupil allocations, to the local school system in which the scholarship recipient resides, considering all student characteristics.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4016 Scholarship amounts; funding)</p> <p>Louisiana State Board Rules provide for a funding formula for the maximum amount of tuition and fees to be paid for scholarship students. This includes tuition and fees for participating nonpublic schools are increased.</p> <p>(La. BESE Bulletin 133 – Scholarship Programs; 501 Finance)</p> <p>Following passage of a bill in the Louisiana Legislature in 2024, this program will cease to operate, effective June 30, 2025.</p> <p>(Senate Bill 313, Louisiana Legislature (2024))</p>
		<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR Scholarship Program) Louisiana Statute provides that this program is subject to specific appropriation of funds by the Legislature each year for this purpose. No further information is provided on the amount of funds students will receive.</p> <p>(Senate Bill 313, Louisiana Legislature (2024))</p>

<p>Uncapped Student Access</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Funding or enrollment cap</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off program with largest number of students</i></p> <p><i>(Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program)</i></p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Tuition Donation Credit Program</p> <p>Louisiana policy does not provide for an enrollment cap or a total donation cap.</p>
		<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities</p> <p>Each participating school may determine the number of eligible students it will accept in any year of program participation and may establish specific criteria for enrollment of students. Each school has discretion in enrolling eligible students for participation in the program.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4031 School choice program; students with exceptionalities; establishment; purpose; student eligibility; nonpublic school eligibility; educational certificates; administration; implementation; reporting)</p>
		<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program</p> <p>When submitting a notice of intent to participate in the program, participating schools must specify the number of seats the school will have available for scholarship recipients at each grade level and the maximum amount of tuition attributable to each available seat.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4020 School participation; application)</p> <p>EdChoice also notes that the budget cap for this program totals \$41.9 million.</p> <p>(EdChoice, The ABCs of School Choice: Louisiana (2024 Edition))</p> <p>Following passage of a bill in the Louisiana Legislature in 2024, this program will cease to operate, effective June 30, 2025.</p> <p>(Senate Bill 313, Louisiana Legislature (2024))</p>
		<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR Scholarship Program)</p> <p>Louisiana Statute provides that the Department must allocate funds quarterly, in an amount determined by the State Board, to each account from funds that have been appropriated by the Legislature or otherwise made available for the program.</p> <p>(Senate Bill 313, Louisiana Legislature (2024))</p>

<p>Extended Application Window</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Application period or periods</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off program with largest number of students (Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program)</i></p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Tuition Donation Credit Program</p> <p>Students apply directly to School Tuition Organizations – application periods are not specified in policy.</p> <p>Louisiana Statute does require School Tuition Organizations to distribute scholarships payments in September, December, February, and May.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 47:6301 Credit; donations to school tuition organizations)</p>
		<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities</p> <p>Louisiana policy does not provide for the application timeline. Louisiana Statute makes clear that enrollment of students must occur by April 30th of the school year prior to the year of participation by the school, and the list of eligible students that are enrolled must be submitted to the Department before June 1 of that year.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4031 School choice program; students with exceptionalities; establishment; purpose; student eligibility; nonpublic school eligibility; educational certificates; administration; implementation; reporting)</p> <p>The Louisiana Department of education website explains that online applications for the 2024-25 school year opened on February 5, 2024, and closed early March. Awards were then sent out in April.</p> <p>(Louisiana Dept of Education, School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities; Louisiana Dept of Education, School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities – Family Participation Guide)</p>
		<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program</p> <p>Guidance from the Office of School Choice at the Louisiana Department of Education provides for the key dates for this program – applications open in December and close in January. In late April or early May students will receive their award notification letters.</p> <p>(Louisiana Dept of Education, Office of School Choice: Louisiana Scholarship Program Application Guide)</p> <p>Following passage of a bill in the Louisiana Legislature in 2024, this program will cease to operate, effective June 30, 2025.</p>

			<p>(Senate Bill 313, Louisiana Legislature (2024))</p>
		YES	<p>Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR Scholarship Program) Louisiana Statute requires the State Board to adopt rules to implement this new program. The rules must include a rolling enrollment process “adhering to the phases and student priority...that shall be used in the event that there are insufficient funds to fund all students whose parents apply for program participation.”</p> <p>(Senate Bill 313, Louisiana Legislature (2024))</p>
Student Testing Options	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Rigid mandates, multiple tests, or no accountability</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off program with largest number of students (Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program)</i></p>	LIMITED	<p>Tuition Donation Credit Program Louisiana Statute requires qualified schools to annually administer the state test that is associated with the school and district accountability system to “measure learning gains in math and language arts” to all participating students in grades that require testing under the state’s accountability testing laws for public schools.</p> <p>The Department of Education is required, under Statute, to publicly report state test scores for each student receiving a scholarship.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 47:6301 Credit; donations to school tuition organizations)</p>
		YES	<p>School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities Louisiana policy does not provide for assessment options to monitor student progress.</p>
		LIMITED	<p>Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program Louisiana Statute requires participating nonpublic schools to administer scholarship recipients all examinations required according to the school and district accountability system, at the specific required grade levels. The results of these examinations must be provided to parents or legal guardians.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4023 Testing)</p> <p>Following passage of a bill in the Louisiana Legislature in 2024, this program will cease to operate, effective June 30, 2025.</p>

			<p>(Senate Bill 313, Louisiana Legislature (2024))</p>
<p>School Autonomy</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Silent language or adverse regulations</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off program with largest number of students (Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program)</i></p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR Scholarship Program) Louisiana Statute provides that the Department must develop a process for the annual administration of either of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any examination in English language arts and mathematics required under the state’s school and district accountability system at the prescribed grade level; or • A nationally norm-referenced test or assessment approved by the State Board. <p>(Senate Bill 313, Louisiana Legislature (2024))</p>
		<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>Tuition Donation Credit Program Louisiana Statute does require qualified schools to take certain actions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conducting criminal background checks on employees; • annually administer the state test; • conduct a random selection process if more first-time qualified students who are otherwise eligible apply than there are seats available; • admit qualified students for enrollment based on the letter grade of the public school for which the qualified student was attending or would have attended; • annually provide the actual tuition and fee amounts charged to all students to each school tuition organization. <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 47:6301 Credit; donations to school tuition organizations)</p> <p>School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities Louisiana policy is not clear that participating nonpublic schools preserve autonomy. Approval of nonpublic school laws include a requirement that the nonpublic school must meet the “requirements of a sustained curriculum or specialized course of study of quality at least equal to that prescribed for similar public schools.”</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:11 Approval of nonpublic schools by board)</p> <p>Schools do have discretion over admissions - each participating school may determine the number of eligible students it will accept in any year of program participation and may</p>

			<p>establish specific criteria for enrollment of students. Each school has discretion in enrolling eligible students for participation in the program.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4031 School choice program; students with exceptionalities; establishment; purpose; student eligibility; nonpublic school eligibility; educational certificates; administration; implementation; reporting)</p>
		<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program Louisiana policy does not address private school autonomy.</p> <p>Following passage of a bill in the Louisiana Legislature in 2024, this program will cease to operate, effective June 30, 2025.</p> <p>(Senate Bill 313, Louisiana Legislature (2024))</p>
		<p>YES</p>	<p>Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR Scholarship Program) Louisiana Statute provides that there is nothing in the law creating this program that would “limit the independence or autonomy of any participating nonpublic school or service provider or to make the actions of a nonpublic school or service provider the actions of the state government.” The law goes on to provide that participating nonpublic schools and service providers “shall be given maximum freedom to provide for the educational needs of participating students without governmental control.” Further this law cannot expand the regulatory authority to impose any additional regulations on participating nonpublic schools or service providers, beyond what is necessary to implement this law. Finally, the Statute provides that “no participating nonpublic school or service provider shall be required to alter its creed, practices, admissions policy, or curricula in order to accept account funds.”</p> <p>(Senate Bill 313, Louisiana Legislature (2024))</p>

<p>Accessible School Participation</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Accreditation requirement</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off program with largest number of students (Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program)</i></p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Tuition Donation Credit Program</p> <p>Louisiana Statute limits participating schools to “qualified schools” defined to mean a “nonpublic elementary or secondary school in this state which is approved, provisionally approved, or probationally approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and which complies with the criteria set forth in <i>Brumfield, et al. v. Dodd, et al., 425 F. Supp. 528.</i>” (relating to nondiscrimination criteria)</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 47:6301 Credit; donations to school tuition organizations)</p>
		<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities</p> <p>Eligible nonpublic schools must meet certain requirements established in statute. Schools must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and have been approved for the school year prior to the school’s participation in the program. • Comply with the criteria set forth in <i>Brumfield, et al. v. Dodd, et al., 425 F. Supp. 528.</i> (relating to nondiscrimination criteria) • Have existed and provided educational services to students with exceptionalities, excluding students deemed to be gifted or talented, for at least 2 years prior to participation in the program. The provision of services must be done at the school that includes instruction by teachers holding appropriate certification in special education. <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4031 School choice program; students with exceptionalities; establishment; purpose; student eligibility; nonpublic school eligibility; educational certificates; administration; implementation; reporting)</p> <p>Guidance for schools also indicates that participating schools must also be accredited – the state requires accreditation through the following entities: the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation organizations, the Cognia accreditation organizations, the National Association of Independent Schools accreditation organizations, the Louisiana Montessori Association, in addition to the diocese or archdiocese in which the school is located.</p>

			<p>Schools may be provisionally accredited approved – these schools are working to meet accreditation requirements and are meeting criteria for approval. These schools will be removed from the program if they do not receive accreditation within 4 years.</p> <p>(Louisiana Dept of Education, School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities – School Participation Guide)</p>
		<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program</p> <p>Louisiana Statute defines “participating school” to mean a nonpublic school that meets program requirements and seeks to enroll scholarship recipients or a public school that meets program requirements and seeks to enroll scholarship recipients subject to any court-ordered desegregation plan in effect for the school system in which the public school is located.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4013 Definitions)</p> <p>Further, nonpublic schools must be approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, comply with criteria in <i>Brumfield, et al. v. Dodd, et al., 425 F. Supp. 528</i> (relating to nondiscrimination criteria), and be accredited or designated as provisionally accredited approved school.</p> <p>Accrediting entities include the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation organizations, the Cognia accreditation organizations, the National Association of Independent Schools accreditation organizations, the Louisiana Montessori Association, and the dioceses or archdiocese in which the school is located.</p> <p>Provisionally accredited programs must be fully accredited within four years, or they will be removed from the list as a participating school.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4021 School eligibility)</p> <p>Following passage of a bill in the Louisiana Legislature in 2024, this program will cease to operate, effective June 30, 2025.</p> <p>(Senate Bill 313, Louisiana Legislature (2024))</p>

		<p>YES</p>	<p>Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR Scholarship Program) Statute provides that schools must meet certain requirements to participate in this program, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools must be approved by the State Board and meet any other standards established by the Board relating to health, safety, and program of study. • Schools must comply with criteria in <i>Brumfield, et al. v. Dodd, et al., 425 F. Supp. 528</i> (relating to nondiscrimination criteria). • Schools must meet all other program requirements provided in rules promulgated by the State Board. <p>(Senate Bill 313, Louisiana Legislature (2024))</p>
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ESAs and Parent-Directed Spending

<p>Freedom to Customize</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p><i>State's largest private school choice program does not qualify as an ESA. Score is based off the largest ESA program. (LA GATOR Scholarship Program)</i></p>	<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>Steve Carter Education Program Louisiana created the Steve Carter Education Program (formerly known as the Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Program) through statute to provide supplemental educational services for eligible students. Payments will be made for certain eligible purposes, designed to improve literacy and mathematical skills, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • books for home use, including electronic or digital books and subscriptions to only book clubs (not to exceed \$250 per year), according to a list developed by the state Department of Education; • instructional materials and curriculum, including online materials; • tutoring services provided by a person who is trained in the state standards for English language arts or mathematics and meets other requirements; • summer education programs; and • after school education programs. <p>Funds are limited to up to \$1,500 per student per school year.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Code 17:4032.1 Steve Carter Literacy Program; establishment; student eligibility; service provider eligibility and approval; administration; payment amounts and uses;</p>
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			<p>notifications; reports; funding - amended by Act No. 649 in the 2024 Regular Legislative Session)</p>
		<p>YES</p>	<p>Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR Scholarship Program) Enacted in 2024, the Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise Program (LA GATOR Scholarship Program), creates an opportunity for parents to set aside part of their tax dollars in an educational scholarship account to provide educational opportunities for their child.</p> <p>Louisiana Statute provides that the following are “qualified education expenses”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tuition or fees at a nonpublic school or for nonpublic online learning; • curricula and textbooks or other instructional materials, including supplemental materials or online instruction required by a participating school or service provider; • tuition, fees, instructional materials, and examination fees at a career or technical school; • fees for Louisiana Educational Assessment Program tests, national norm-referenced examinations, Advanced Placement examinations, and examinations related to postsecondary education institution admission; • educational services and therapies, including occupational, behavioral, physical, speech-language, and audiology therapies; • tuition and fees at a postsecondary education institution providing instruction for a student participating in dual enrollment; • any other educational expenses approved by the state board. <p>(Senate Bill 313, Louisiana Legislature (2024))</p> <p>Note: Qualified expenses do not include funding for transportation and educational technology.</p>

<p>Freedom to Access</p>	<p>YES</p> <p><i>State’s largest private school choice program does not qualify as an ESA. Score is based off the largest ESA program. (LA GATOR Scholarship Program)</i></p>	<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>Steve Carter Education Program Supplemental funds available through the Steve Carter Education Program are limited to the public school students who meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in grades K-3 and determined to read below grade level or be at risk for learning difficulties according to the results of a literacy or mathematics assessment; • Students in grades 4-12 and scored below mastery in English language arts or mathematics on the state assessment in the previous year. <p>(La. Rev. Code 17:4032.1 Steve Carter Literacy Program; establishment; student eligibility; service provider eligibility and approval; administration; payment amounts and uses; notifications; reports; funding)</p>
<p>Carry-Over Funding</p>	<p>YES</p> <p><i>State’s largest private school choice program does not qualify as an ESA. Score is based off the largest ESA program. (LA GATOR Scholarship Program)</i></p>	<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR Scholarship Program) Louisiana Statute allows funds to be used for tuition or fees at a nonpublic school or for nonpublic online learning programs, as well as tuition, fees, instructional materials, and examination fees at a career or technical school.</p> <p>(Senate Bill 313, Louisiana Legislature (2024))</p> <p>Steve Carter Education Program Louisiana policy is silent on carry over of funds for the Steve Carter Education Program. Guidance from the Louisiana Department of Education notes that the “voucher will be for the year.”</p> <p>explains that the program provides a \$1,500 digital voucher per student per year. The voucher is loaded into a student’s account and, as tutoring sessions are scheduled, the voucher funds are decreased until extinguished.</p> <p>(Louisiana Dept of Education, Steve Carter Education Program Guidance)</p>

		<p>YES</p>	<p>Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR Scholarship Program) Louisiana Statute provides that funds in a student’s account that are not used in any given school year must be retained in the account for future use.</p> <p>Funds will continue to be allocated to an account until one of the following occurs, at which point the account will be closed and funds returned to the state general fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the parent enrolls the student full-time in a public school; • the parent has failed to comply with the law or rules; • the parent withdraws the student from the program; • the student graduates from high school; • the account has been inactive for two consecutive years, unless inactivity is due to lack of available funding for accounts. <p>(Senate Bill 313, Louisiana Legislature (2024))</p>
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Tax Credits

<p>Full Tax Credit</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Tuition Donation Credit Program Louisiana Statute provides that the amount of the credit is equal to the actual amount of the taxpayer’s donation used by a school tuition organization to fund a scholarship to a qualified student.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 47:6301 Credit; donations to school tuition organizations)</p>
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SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes	Administrative Code	State Department of Education	Other Resources
<p>La. Rev. Stat. 17:11 Approval of nonpublic schools by board</p> <p>La. Rev. Stat. 17: 4011, et al. Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Act</p> <p>La. Rev. Stat. 17:4031 School choice program; students with exceptionalities; establishment; purpose; student eligibility; nonpublic school eligibility; educational certificates; administration; implementation; reporting</p> <p>La. Rev. Code 17:4032.1 Steve Carter Literacy Program; establishment; student eligibility; service provider eligibility and approval; administration; payment amounts and uses; notifications; reports; funding</p> <p>La. Rev. Stat. 47:297.10 Tax deduction; elementary and secondary school tuition</p> <p>La. Rev. Stat. 47:6301 Credit; donations to school tuition organizations</p> <p>Senate Bill 313, Louisiana Legislature (2024)</p>	<p>La. BESE Bulletin 133 – Scholarship Programs; 701 Required Participation in the State Testing Program</p>	<p>Louisiana Dept of Education, Tuition Donation Credit Program</p> <p>Louisiana Dept of Education, Tuition Donation Credit Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)</p> <p>Louisiana Dept of Education, School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities</p> <p>Louisiana Dept of Education, School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities – Family Participation Guide</p> <p>Louisiana Dept of Education, School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities – School Participation Guide</p> <p>Louisiana Dept of Education, Office of School Choice: Nonpublic School Approval Questionnaire: New Applicants</p> <p>Louisiana Dept of Education, Office of School Choice: Louisiana Scholarship Program Application Guide</p> <p>Louisiana Dept of Education, Louisiana Literacy</p>	<p>Louisiana Dept of Revenue, School Expense Deduction</p> <p>EdChoice, The ABCs of School Choice: Louisiana (2024 Edition)</p>

		<p>Louisiana Dept of Education, Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Fall 2022 Informational Webinar for School Systems</p> <p>Louisiana Dept of Education, Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring – Program FAQs</p>	
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Homeschooling in Louisiana

POLICY	OVERALL RATING		PROGRAM OVERVIEW
<p>Homeschool without Prior Approval</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>Permission required</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off most independent, parent-directed pathway</i></p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>Approved Home Study Program</p> <p>The first option for Louisiana parents for homeschooling is to apply to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for approval of a home study program.</p> <p>An initial application to operate an approved home study program will be approved if the parent certifies that the home study program will “offer a sustained curriculum of quality at least equal to that offered by public schools at the same grade level.”</p> <p>Renewal applications for participation will be approved if the parent submits to the Board satisfactory “evidence that the program has in fact offered a sustained curriculum of quality at least equal to that offered by public schools at the same grade level.”</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:236.1 Approval of home study programs)</p>
		<p>YES</p>	<p>Nonpublic School Not Seeking State Approval</p> <p>Louisiana parents may also choose to homeschool their children through a Nonpublic School Not Seeking State Approval. Through this option, parents do not need to seek permission – they must provide a written notice of enrollment in the nonpublic school to the public school the student last attended.</p> <p>(Louisiana Dept of Education, Nonpublic Schools Not Seeking State Approval Guidelines and Instructions)</p>

<p>No Extra Homeschool Notifications</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>Annual notification</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off most independent, parent-directed pathway</i></p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>Approved Home Study Program</p> <p>Parents who choose the approved home study program must apply to operate annually – the renewal application must be made by October 1 of the school year, each year; or within 12 months of approval of the initial application, whichever is later.</p> <p>Renewal applications for participation will be approved if the parent submits to the Board satisfactory “evidence that the program has in fact offered a sustained curriculum of quality at least equal to that offered by public schools at the same grade level.” This evidence must include documents, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A complete outline of each of the subjects taught during the previous year; • Lists of books and materials used; • Copies of the student’s work; • Copies of standardized tests; • Statements by third parties who have observed the child’s progress; and • Any other evidence of the quality of the program. <p>In lieu of the listed packet of materials, the parent may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • verify the student has taken the competency-based education examination provided in statute and scored at or above the passing level; • verify that the child has taken the California Achievement Test or other standardized examination and scored at a certain level; or • a statement from a teacher certified to teach at the child’s grade level that the teacher has examined the program offered, and in his professional opinion, the child is being taught in accordance with a sustained curriculum of quality at least equal to that offered by public schools. <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:236.1 Approval of home study programs)</p>
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			NO	<p>Nonpublic School Not Seeking State Approval Parents who choose to homeschool their children through the Nonpublic School Not Seeking State Approval option must annually submit enrollment information to the Department of Education. Parents must use the online attendance submission form. According to guidance, “Submitting attendance is required on an annual basis to notify the LDE of the existence of the nonpublic school not seeking state approval.”</p> <p>(Louisiana Dept of Education, Nonpublic Schools Not Seeking State Approval Guidelines and Instructions)</p>
No Certification to Homeschool	<p>YES</p> <p>No certification requirement</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off most independent, parent-directed pathway</i></p>		YES	<p>Approved Home Study Program Louisiana policy is silent on whether parents need to possess teacher certifications.</p> <p>Louisiana Department of Education guidance confirms that the state does not have teaching certification requirements for parents choosing to homeschool their students.</p> <p>(Louisiana Dept of Education, BESE Approved Home Study Program Guidelines)</p>
			YES	<p>Nonpublic School Not Seeking State Approval Louisiana policy does not require parents choosing this option for homeschooling to be certified.</p>
Flexible Assessment Options	<p>YES</p> <p>Flexible academic accountability</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off most independent, parent-directed pathway</i></p>		YES	<p>Approved Home Study Program Louisiana Statute provides the option for parents to sign their students up to take the competency-based examination. Statute also allows parents to use participation in a standardized test, copies of the student’s work, and other forms of evidence to show the student is progressing.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:236.1 Approval of home study programs)</p> <p>The Louisiana Department of Education webpage related to home study programs confirms that students are not required to take state assessments.</p> <p>(Louisiana Dept of Education, Approved Home Study Programs)</p>

		YES	<p>Nonpublic School Not Seeking State Approval Students enrolled in a Nonpublic School Not Seeking State Approval as their homeschool option are not required to take state testing. Testing is available on request through the local school system for the 4th and 8th grade LEAP.</p> <p>(Louisiana Dept of Education, Nonpublic Schools Not Seeking State Approval Guidelines and Instructions)</p>
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SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes

[La. Rev. Stat. 17:236.1 Approval of home study programs](#)

State Department of Education

[Louisiana Dept of Education, Approved Home Study Programs](#)

[Louisiana Dept of Education, Home Study Application](#)

[Louisiana Dept of Education, BESE Approved Home Study Program Guidelines](#)

[Louisiana Dept of Education, Nonpublic Schools Not Seeking State Approval](#)

[Louisiana Dept of Education, Nonpublic Schools Not Seeking State Approval Guidelines and Instructions](#)

POLICY ENHANCERS



Part-time Enrollment in Louisiana

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
Resident Course Access	<p>NO</p> <p>No policy</p>	<p>Louisiana does not have a policy for nonpublic and homeschool students to access individual courses within their local school district.</p> <p>Louisiana Statute creates the Course Choice Program. Policy limits “eligible funded students” to those attending public elementary or secondary schools. “Eligible participating students”, however, include students attending nonpublic schools, as well as those enrolled in home study programs. Course providers include online and virtual education providers, postsecondary education institutions</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4002.1, et al. Course Choice Program; La. Rev. Stat. 17:4002.3 Definitions)</p>
Nonresident Course Access	<p>NO</p> <p>No program</p>	<p>Louisiana does not have a policy relating to part-time enrollment of students in public school courses outside their district of residence.</p>
Virtual Course Access	<p>YES</p> <p>The state has one or more fully accessible virtual providers</p>	<p>Through the Course Choice Program, students may take individual courses that are offered online. Course providers are defined to include online or virtual education providers.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4002.3 Definitions)</p> <p>Louisiana Statute also gives districts and charter schools the authority to establish a virtual school.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:236.3 Virtual school; definition; attendance policies)</p>

		<p>Louisiana created the Supplemental Course Academy, through the Course Choice Program authorized under statute.</p> <p>(Louisiana Dept of Education, Supplemental Course Academy)</p> <p>Louisiana also has a Virtual Charter Academy for full-time students across the state, and through this, students have the option for a hybrid program through Blended Learning Centers.</p>
<p>Extracurricular Access</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Access denied to some resident students, or students must take at least one class in a public school</p>	<p>The Louisiana Department of Education Approved Home Study webpage specifies that students participating in an Approved Home Study Program may participate in interscholastic athletic activities.</p> <p>(Louisiana Dept of Education, Approved Home Study Programs)</p> <p>Louisiana policy is silent on nonpublic students and charter school students participating in extracurricular activities.</p>

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes	State Department of Education	Other Resources
<p>La. Rev. Stat. 17:236.3 Virtual school; definition; attendance policies</p> <p>La. Rev. Stat. 17:4002.1, et al. Course Choice Program</p>	<p>Louisiana Dept of Education, Approved Home Study Programs</p> <p>Louisiana Dept of Education, Supplemental Course Academy</p>	<p>Louisiana Virtual Charter Academy</p>



Learn Everywhere in Louisiana

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
Provider Qualification Standard	<p>NO</p> <p>No program</p>	<p>Louisiana has not established a Learn Everywhere program.</p>
Course Credit Standard	<p>NO</p> <p>No program</p>	
Core Course Opportunities	<p>NO</p> <p>No program</p>	
Central State List	<p>NO</p> <p>No program</p>	



Transportation in Louisiana

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
<p>Open Enrollment Transit</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Less than equitable and/or for some students only</p>	<p>The Louisiana Public School Choice Statute provides that a school system will not be required to provide transportation to any student enrolled in a public school that is located outside of the geographic boundaries of the school system in which the student resides, if providing the transportation will result in increased costs to the school system.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:4035.1 Public school choice)</p> <p>Louisiana Statute also provides for transfers to schools in adjoining school systems where the student assigned to attend a public school is located more than one hour away from that school. In these situations, the adjoining school system must provide transportation for the student.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:105.1 Transfer to schools in an adjoining school system; conditions; exceptions; funding)</p>
<p>Fair Transportation Access</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Equitable transportation offered to some charter OR private students</p>	<p>Charter School Students</p> <p>Louisiana Statute for charter schools provides that charter schools may negotiate with local school boards for pupil transportation. If requested, the charter school receiving the transportation services must reimburse the local school board for the actual cost of providing such transportation unless a lesser amount is agreed upon.</p> <p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:3991 Charter schools; requirements; limitations; renewal; amendment; revocation; board membership)</p> <p>Nonpublic School Students</p> <p>Louisiana Statute provides that each city, parish, and other local public school board must provide free transportation for any student attending a school “approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education” if the student resides more than 1 mile from school. Transportation is optional for those students who reside 1 mile or less from the school. This does not apply to any student attending a nonpublic school under certain school choice options. Statute applies these provisions to both eligible public and nonpublic school students.</p>

		<p>(La. Rev. Stat. 17:158 School buses for transportation of students; employment of bus operators; alternative means of transportation; improvement of school bus turnarounds; loading and unloading students)</p>
<p>Vehicle Flexibility</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>A 2025 law allows all Louisiana districts to contract with transportation network companies to provide ridesharing services and other innovative means of transportation.</p> <p>(Senate Bill 2025-160)</p> <p>Louisiana State Board Regulations provide that all school buses must meet or exceed the minimum requirements of all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.</p> <p>Regulations provide that no vehicle with a rated capacity of more than 10 passengers will be classified as a school bus, therefore used to transport students to and from school and school-related activities, unless the vehicle originally was manufactured and certified as a school bus and maintained the certification as a school bus all in accordance with federal and state requirements throughout the life of the vehicle.</p> <p>(Louisiana BESE Bulletin 119 – Louisiana School Transportation Specifications and Procedures; 2303 Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS))</p> <p>“School bus” is defined in the State Board Regulations Supplement relating to school buses to mean “a bus owned, leased, contracted to or operated by a school or school district and regularly used to transport students to and from school or school-related activities, but not including a charter bus or transit bus. A school bus must meet all applicable FMVSSs and is readily identified by alternately flashing lamps, National School Bus Yellow paint, and the legend “School Bus,” except as may be provided for the multifunction school activity bus.” Multifunction school activity buses, as defined in this supplement specify these vehicles are not used for transporting students to and from home or school bus stops.</p> <p>(Louisiana BESE Bulletin 119 Supplement, Volume II: Louisiana Student Transportation Operational Procedures (2020 edition))</p>

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes

[La. Rev. Stat. 17:105.1 Transfer to schools in an adjoining school system; conditions; exceptions; funding](#)

[La. Rev. Stat. 17:158 School buses for transportation of students; employment of bus operators; alternative means of transportation; improvement of school bus turnarounds; loading and unloading students](#)

[La. Rev. Stat. 17:3991 Charter schools; requirements; limitations; renewal; amendment; revocation; board membership](#)

[La. Rev. Stat. 17: 4035.1 Public school choice](#)

Administrative Code

[Louisiana BESE Bulletin 119 – Louisiana School Transportation Specifications and Procedures; 2303 Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards \(FMVSS\)](#)

[Louisiana BESE Bulletin 119 Supplement, Volume II: Louisiana Student Transportation Operational Procedures \(2020 edition\)](#)

State Department of Education

[Louisiana Dept of Education, School Transportation](#)

