



Because of the unique nature of special education programs, this Guidebook does not score or rank programs that serve students with special needs.

PROGRAM TYPE

Voucher
– Special needs

SCHOLARSHIP CAP

- 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. This amount averages approx. \$2,500 across the state.
- Whichever is less:
 - 50% of state per-pupil funding
 - Tuition of private school

ENROLLMENT CAP

None

PROGRAM FUNDING

\$1,000,000

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

- Students that have been evaluated by a Louisiana public school district and determined to be in need of services for specific exceptionalities and have an Individual Education Plan, district-provided services plan or a nonpublic-school-created service plan
- Student must:
 - Have an Individualized Education Program (IEP)
 - Be in need of services for autism, mental disability, emotional disturbance, developmental delay, other health-impairment-specific learning disability or traumatic brain injury
 - Be eligible to attend a public school
 - Reside in one of the six largest parishes: Jefferson, East Baton Rouge, Orleans, Caddo, St. Tammany or Lafayette

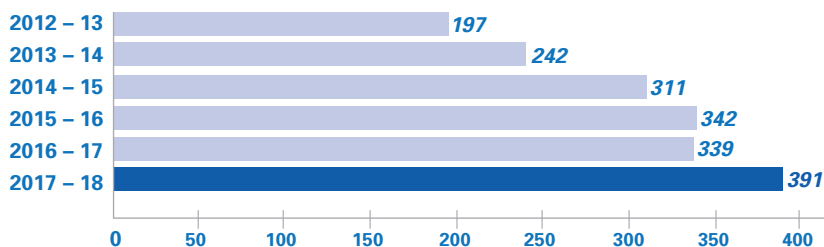
SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

- Nonpublic schools must be approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), comply with Brumfield v. Dodd, an anti-discrimination order, and be located in Caddo, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Lafayette, Orleans, or St. Tammany parishes to be eligible
- Submit a notice of intent to participate to the Louisiana Department of Education
- Must have provided services to students with exceptionalities for at least two years prior to joining the program, and employ teachers with valid certification in special education
- Be approved by the state to participate
- Comply with state nondiscrimination and health and safety requirements
- Require teachers to be certified to teach special education

YEAR ENACTED

2010

STUDENT PARTICIPATION



DATA UPDATE

Schools Participating	19
2017 Expenditures	\$1,000,000



STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

- Students entering kindergarten or enrolled in a C, D or F school with a family income that does not exceed 250% of the federal poverty guidelines (\$62,750 for family of four in 2018)

SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

- Public schools must be rated A or B based on the most recent school performance scores
- Private schools must be approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and comply with Brumfield v. Dodd antidiscrimination order
- Private schools must also possess adequate organizational capacity, submit a notice of intent to participate to the Louisiana Department of Education and be approved by the state to participate
- Comply with health and safety codes
- Not discriminate on the basis of race, color or national origin
- Use an open admissions process in enrolling scholarship recipients
- Administer all Louisiana state examinations required under the school and district accountability system
- Receive a Scholarship Cohort Index of at least 50 to remain eligible to accept new students
- Provide scholarships to no more than 20% of students for private schools in operation fewer than two years
- Submit to the state an annual independent financial audit conducted by a certified public accountant
- Conduct criminal background checks on all school employees
- Maintain a curriculum of a quality at least equal to that prescribed for public schools

This program ranks

9th

out of 11

Voucher Programs

23 out of 32 pts. | **STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

15 out of 48 pts. | **PROGRAM AND SCHOLARSHIP SIZE**

14 out of 24 pts. | **ACCOUNTABILITY**

PROGRAM TYPE

Voucher
– Means-tested and failing schools

SCHOLARSHIP CAP

- Whichever is less:
 - State and local per-pupil funding (state average of \$11,010 for 2016-17)
 - Tuition, fees and costs associated with testing

ENROLLMENT CAP

None

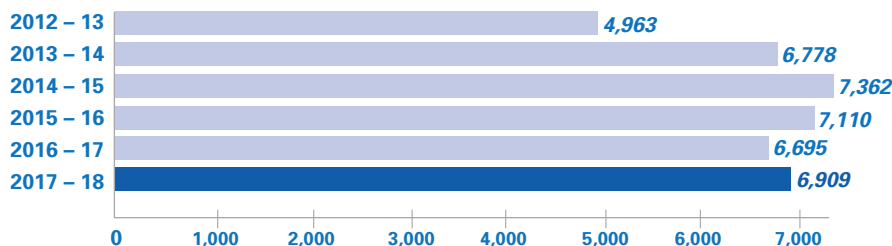
PROGRAM FUNDING

- 2017 Funding: \$42.5 million
- 2018 Funding: \$41.9 million

YEAR ENACTED

2008

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

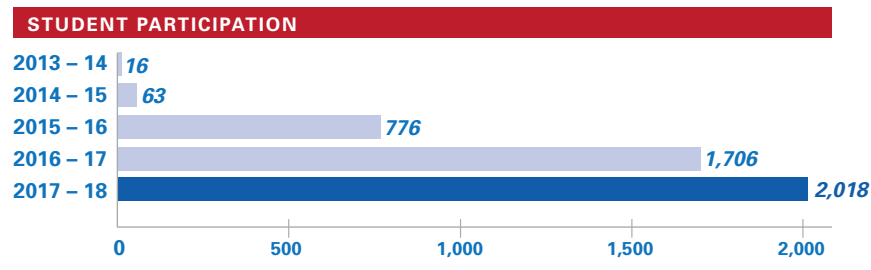


DATA UPDATE

Schools Participating	122
2017 Expenditures	\$42,500,000



<p><i>This program ranks</i></p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: #c00000; text-align: center;">3rd</p> <p style="text-align: center;">out of 18</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Tax Credit Scholarship Programs</i></p>	<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are eligible if the student’s family income does not exceed 250% of the federal poverty guidelines (\$62,750 for family of four in 2018) and the student either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is entering kindergarten for the first time; or Was enrolled in a Louisiana public school during the previous year; or Participated in either the Tuition Donation Rebate Program or Louisiana Scholarship Program during the previous year Priority given to students who are from public schools that received a letter grade of “D” or “F,” received a scholarship in the previous year, or are siblings of participating students
<p>23 out of 32 pts. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <p>24 out of 52 pts. PROGRAM AND SCHOLARSHIP SIZE</p> <p>20 out of 24 pts. ACCOUNTABILITY</p> <p>33 out of 38 pts. TAX CREDIT FEATURES</p>	<p>SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION (STO) REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use at least 95% of contributions for scholarships Conduct background checks on school employees and board members Report annually to the state: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total number and dollar amount of contributions received and scholarships awarded Total amount expended on administrative costs Tuition and fee amounts published by participating schools Information on contributions made by each contributor Financial information report by a certified public accountant
<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <p>Tax Credit Scholarship—corporate and individual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Means-tested and failing schools 	<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Not discriminate on the basis of race, color or national origin Conduct background checks on school employees Annually administer and report the results of the state test associated with the school and district accountability system to all participating students in grades that require testing under the state’s accountability testing requirements for public schools Any school receiving more than \$50,000 in scholarship money must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> File financial information demonstrating its financial viability File a surety bond if in operation for five years or less
<p>TAX CREDIT VALUE</p> <p> 95% of donation</p>	
<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <p>School Tuition Organizations determine scholarship amounts. Amounts cannot exceed the school’s tuition and fees or 80% of state per-pupil funding for elementary and middle school (\$4,184.80) and 90% for high school (\$4,707.90), whichever is less.</p>	
<p>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of state tax liability 	
<p>STATEWIDE CAP</p> <p>None</p>	
<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <p>2012</p>	



DATA UPDATE

Schools Participating	174
STOs Operating	3
2017 Donations	\$5,600,000