

1. What is the purpose of the Tuition Donation Rebate Program?

The Tuition Donation Rebate Program (TDR) empowers Louisiana families with the financial resources to choose the school that will best prepare their children for college and careers. This program provides rebates to Louisiana state taxpayers that donate to tax-exempt, not-for-profit organizations that provide scholarships to students in low-income families.

FOR FAMILIES:

2. What students are eligible for a scholarship?

Students should meet each of the following income, residency, and prior school year requirements:

Income Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a family household income that does not exceed 250% of the federal poverty guidelines, as established by the Federal Office of Management and Budget.
Residency Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a resident of Louisiana
Prior School Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have attended a public school in Louisiana on October 1 and February 1 of the most recent school year; Be entering Kindergarten for the first time; or Have participated in the Louisiana Scholarship Program/Tuition Donation Rebate Program for the previous school year.

3. Where can families find a list of School Tuition Organizations participating in the Tuition Donation Rebate Program?

Families can find relevant information about participating School Tuition Organizations [here](#).

4. How do students apply for a scholarship?

Students apply to a School Tuition Organization for a scholarship. School Tuition Organizations are not-for-profit, tax-exempt organizations [501(c)(3)]. School Tuition Organizations award scholarships on a first-come, first-served basis. Priority is given to students who participated in the Tuition Donation Rebate or Louisiana Scholarship Program in the previous year.

5. How do students choose their school?

Receiving a scholarship from a School Tuition Organization does not guarantee enrollment in specific nonpublic school. Rather, families must still apply directly for enrollment to the nonpublic school of their choice.

School Tuition Organizations may determine to partner with a group of schools for which their scholarship may be used. Families should consult their choice school and the School Tuition Organization to ensure that a scholarship award can be used at the school. Scholarships are portable and may be used at any participating school that the School Tuition Organization partners with.

Schools may use their own selective admissions criteria to decide which students they enroll. If the number of applying students with a TDR scholarship that meet the participating school’s enrollment criteria exceeds the number of available seats, the school must conduct a lottery to determine enrollment.

6. How much is the scholarship?

School Tuition Organizations determine the amount of the scholarship. Scholarship amounts cannot exceed the lesser of either school’s tuition and mandatory fees or 80% of the state average per pupil funding for elementary and middle school students (approximately \$4,000) and 90% of the state average per pupil funding for high school students (approximately \$4,500).

Students may receive a scholarship from more than one School Tuition Organization. The total dollar amount of scholarships may still not exceed the maximum amounts outlined above.

7. Do families have to pay the difference between the Tuition Donation Rebate and the full tuition and fees charged by the nonpublic school?

Yes, families are responsible for paying school tuition and fees that exceed the amount of the scholarship.

8. Do families have to pay to apply for a scholarship?

School Tuition Organizations may also charge families a scholarship application fee.

9. Can a student participate in both the Louisiana Scholarship Program and the Tuition Donation Rebate Program?

Families may apply for a scholarship from both programs. If a student receives both scholarships, families may accept and use only one of the scholarships, either from the Louisiana Scholarship Program or the Tuition Donation Rebate Program.

FOR SCHOOLS:

10. What schools are eligible to participate in the program?

Nonpublic schools that are eligible for State funding determined by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and comply with non-discrimination requirements of the law (*Brumfield v. Dodd*) are eligible to participate.

Schools are not required to submit a notice of intent to participate to the Louisiana Department of Education before enrolling a student with a scholarship from a School Tuition Organization. Rather, schools should coordinate directly with the School Tuition Organization who issued the student scholarship. School Tuition Organizations may use additional specific criteria to determine which nonpublic schools they partner with.

11. Can nonpublic schools participate in both the Louisiana Scholarship Program and the Tuition Donation Rebate Program? If so, do schools have any enrollment restrictions?

Schools may participate in both scholarship programs. Schools that have operated for less than two years may enroll only up to 20% of its total enrollment with students from both programs.

12. How are schools paid?

School Tuition Organizations distribute quarterly payments via mail to each participating school (September, December, February, and May). These quarterly payment checks are issued to the parents of the scholarship student. Payments must restrictively endorse the check for deposit into the school's account.

13. Are students required to take state tests?

Students are required to take state tests in English Language Arts (ELA) and math. Results are publicly reported but do not impact a school's participation in the program. School Tuition Organizations pay to administer state tests for scholarship students.

14. What are the school's financial responsibilities?

Schools are not required to submit an annual scholarship financial report. However, the Louisiana Department of Education will ask schools to submit documentation to help verify scholarship payments from the School Tuition Organizations.