

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) is the administrative body for all Louisiana public elementary and secondary schools; it also performs certain administrative functions for the state's nonpublic elementary and secondary schools. BESE adopts regulations and enacts policies governing the operations of the schools under its jurisdiction and exercises budgetary oversight of their educational programs and services.

Louisiana serves nearly 800,000 students, located within 170 Local Education Agencies (LEA). The students of Louisiana are diverse and thus, shall be provided with school choice options that best fit their individual needs. The graphics below provide more detail on the student demographics.

Local Education Agencies (LEAs)	170
Public and Nonpublic Schools	1,730
Public and Nonpublic Students	794,486
English Learners*	4.7%
Economically Disadvantaged*	66.8%
Students with Disabilities**	13.2%
Publicly-Funded Early Childhood Sites	1,690
Publicly-Funded Early Childhood Children	56,762

* *Public school students only*

** *Public school students as well as nonpublic school students served by an LEA but not enrolled in a Louisiana public school*

Public data as of October 2022. Nonpublic data as of Fall 2021.

There are six types of charter schools in Louisiana, outlined in the table below. The oversight for Type 1, 3, and 3B charter schools lies with the local district by which the schools are authorized, while the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is directly responsible for the oversight of Type 2, 4, and 5 charter schools.





2023-2024 Charter Request for Applications

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The executive summary shall not be longer than two pages and will not be included in the total page count.

1. Mission and Vision. State the mission and vision of the proposed school. The mission is a statement of the fundamental purpose of the school, describing why it exists. The vision statement outlines how the school will operate and what it will achieve in the long term. The mission and vision statement provides the foundation for the entire proposal. The mission and vision statement, taken together, should:
 - a. Identify the students and community to be served;
 - b. Illustrate what success will look like; and
 - c. Align with the purposes of the state charter school law ([Louisiana R.S. 17:3972](#)).
2. Anticipated Student Population and Educational Need. Describe the anticipated student population the school seeks to serve. Provide rationale for seeking to serve this population.
3. Education Plan. Provide an overview of the education program of the proposed school, including major instructional methods. Summarize what the proposed school would do more effectively than the schools that are now serving the targeted population. If virtual, please see the addendum for additional questions.
4. Impact. Explain how the proposed program will positively impact student outcomes.
5. Applicant groups that have submitted charter applications to the Louisiana Department of Education previously, list the dates of previous submissions. Explain how you have taken the feedback from previous evaluations to reflect and revise the application. Address the deficiencies identified in the most recent evaluation and describe the changes made. Additionally, describe any changes to board leadership or school leadership since the most recent application.

ASSESSMENTS

13. Describe the primary diagnostic, formative, and summative assessments the school will use to evaluate student knowledge and skills. This response should:
 - a.

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

21. Describe the school's approach to student discipline, behavior intervention, and classroom management. Highlight key policies, systems, and structure related to these areas, including:
 - a. Describe how the school will communicate its approach and related policies to students and families;
 - b. Explain interventions and consequences the school will use as alternatives to exclusionary discipline;
 - c. Explain how the school will protect the rights of students with exceptionalities in disciplinary actions; and proceedings;
 - d. The system the school will use to monitor the suspension and expulsion and the approach that will be taken if data suggests disproportionate or over-identification of any sub group; and
 - e. The supervision plan for the alternate setting of suspended/expelled students.
22. **Appendix 5:** Provide a draft [School Model Master Plan](#) (in accordance with [RS 17:252](#))

PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

23. How will the school engage parents/guardians and the community once it's open, including:
 - a. How the school will build strong family-school partnerships to engage parents/guardians throughout the life of the charter; and
 - b. Formalized mechanisms to ensure parents/guardians and the community are involved in decision making and have opportunities to provide regular feedback to the school leader and charter board.

Appendix 6: Provide a draft Grievance Policy.

ACADEMIC GOALS

24. List and provide a detailed description of the charter school's measurable academic goals aligned to LEAP 2025, ACT,



- 30. Provide the board member roster including each person's role, a brief description of major responsibilities, and their expertise area (academics, finances, legal issues, management and operations, and/or community relations).
- 31. **Appendix 9:** Provide the resume for every member of the charter board.
- 32. Identify any existing relationships that could pose actual or perceived conflicts if the application is approved. Discuss specific steps that the board will take to avoid any actual conflicts and to mitigate perceived conflicts, in accordance with the [Louisiana Board of Ethics' Ethics Code](#)



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For all applicants proposing a corporate partnership, the following must be completed. The page limit for the Educational Services Provider Addendum is 5 pages (excluding appendices).

1. Provide rationale for consideration of an ESP not already partnered with the non-profit organization, including:
 - a. List of all companies/organizations considered;
 - b. Evaluation of all companies/organizations considered;
 - c. Rationale for selected provider; and
 - d. Provide evidence of the service provider's success in serving the intended student population, including demonstrated academic achievement, fiscal responsibility, and organizational effectiveness.
2. Clearly specify the decisions and services the organization or provider will be responsible for.
3. Provide a detailed plan outlining the mechanisms by which the charter board will oversee and hold the ESP accountable to the agreed upon terms. Explain the conditions under which the contractual relationship may be terminated.
4. Describe the ESP (if applicable) history, including:
 - a. List any current or past litigation, including arbitration proceedings, that has involved the organization;
 - b. Discuss the outcomes and/or any demands identified as part of the arbitration or litigation;
 - c. Cite any instances in which the organization's schools have had their contract terminated, voluntarily closed, or have not been renewed by their authorizer;
 - d. Describe all instances in which the ESP has exited a contract or partnership with a school, including instances where a school has terminated its agreement with the ESP;
 - e. Please explain the circumstance surrounding these incidents. Discuss any non-openings that the organization has experienced (i.e., a school received approval but did not successfully open); and
 - f. Describe the circumstances surrounding these incidents.

Note: Based on the severity of issues, deficiencies or litigation, additional information may be requested and reviewed as part of this application and included in the school's final evaluation. Failure to disclose requested information shall result in immediate disqualification from the application process.

5.

