BOOST Scholarship Program (2025-2026 school year) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Schools

Updated: February 2025

1. Question: What are the requirements for schools to participate in BOOST?

Answer: Schools must be approved to participate in the <u>Nonpublic Textbook Program</u>; offer at least a 1st grade full-day education; and comply with all reporting requirements.

2. Question: What are the reporting requirements?

Answer: Schools must submit the following reports. Reporting requirements come from the approved Budget Bill for fiscal year 2026 (HB 350) Schools must:

- Complete an online application
- Administer an approved English, Math and Science assessment to all students in specified grade bands in the 2024-2025 school year and report the results to MSDE in the fall (2025-2026 school year). (see list of approved assessments)
- Report the number of certified and non-certified teachers
- Report data on any students who received BOOST and were withdrawn or expelled
- Complete enrollment confirmation for BOOST students

3. Question: Tell me more about the assessment requirement.

Answer: Schools must administer an approved English, Math, and Science assessment to all students in the following grade bands, whether they received BOOST or not.

English Language Arts
Assessment

- Each year for students in grades 3 through 8
- At least once for students in grades 9 through 12

Mathematics Assessment

- Each year for students in grades 3 through 8
- At least once for students in grades 9 through 12

Science Assessment

- · At least once for students in grades 3-5
- · At least once for students in grades 6-8
- · At least once for students in grades 9-12

4. Question: What's the deadline to submit these reports?

Answer: Schools that submit these reports by September 19, 2025, will be in the first batch of scholarship checks that are sent out by the beginning of October. The final deadline for schools to complete these reports is October 17, 2025. Schools that do not complete the reporting requirements on time will be ineligible from participating in BOOST and may not charge the student tuition and fees.

5. Question: Is there a way to see and track which parents have submitted an application for the 2025-2026 school year in the Submittable portal?

Answer: No. If the parents have submitted an application, they will be provided a four-digit application number for the 2025-2026 school year.

6. Question: When are we notified of our awarded students? Can we locate the list in the portal?

Answer: Schools will be notified of their awarded BOOST students by the end of August 2025. The parent application closes in May, legislation is enrolled in April, and the BOOST Advisory will meet during the summer of 2025. A list of awarded applicants will be sent to the submitted school application via Submittable as an additional form, "Enrollment Confirmation Report 2025-2026 School Year."

7. Question: What if my school does not receive any awarded BOOST recipients.? Do we still need to complete the reporting requirements?

Answer: Yes. There are instances where students transfer mid-year. If a student were to enroll at your school, the reporting requirements would need to be completed in order for MSDE to transfer funds. If the school has not completed the reporting requirements by the specified deadlines, the school will cover the remaining BOOST funds.