


# Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Scholarship Program 2023-2024 School Year Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Nonpublic Schools

<b>Question #1</b>	Is the science assessment required for all grades?						
<b>Answer</b>	<p>The science assessment must be administered at least once for students in grades 3-5, at least once for students in grades 6-9 and at least once to students in grades 10-12. See the chart below which provides information on what grade levels must be administered, what assessment and how often.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 10px;">English Language Arts Assessment</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each year for students in grades 3 through 8</li> <li>At least once for students in grades 9 through 12</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 10px;">Mathematics Assessment</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each year for students in grades 3 through 8</li> <li>At least once for students in grades 9 through 12</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 10px;">Science Assessment</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least once for students in grades 3-5</li> <li>At least once for students in grades 6-9</li> <li>At least once for students in grades 10-12</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	English Language Arts Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each year for students in grades 3 through 8</li> <li>At least once for students in grades 9 through 12</li> </ul>	Mathematics Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each year for students in grades 3 through 8</li> <li>At least once for students in grades 9 through 12</li> </ul>	Science Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least once for students in grades 3-5</li> <li>At least once for students in grades 6-9</li> <li>At least once for students in grades 10-12</li> </ul>
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<b>Question #2</b>	We developed our own assessment. Can we use that?						
<b>Answer</b>	No, schools <u>must</u> administer an approved assessment. For a list of approved assessments, <a href="#">click here</a> .						
<b>Question #3</b>	We have a student who is turning 5 years old this fall and will be in kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year. Is this student eligible?						
<b>Answer</b>	Yes.						
<b>Question #4</b>	How about pre-K students?						
<b>Answer</b>	No, pre-K students are not eligible for a scholarship award.						
<b>Question #5</b>	There is some confusion involving schools with identical or similar names. How will you ensure there's no mix-up?						
<b>Answer</b>	BOOST will be identifying schools by the 8-digit advance link # assigned to each school by the <a href="#">Nonpublic School Approval Branch</a> . We recommend you write this number down on a sticky note and post it somewhere for you to refer to. This number can also be found in the list of participating BOOST schools. It looks like this: 09-__ - ____						

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<b>Question #6</b>	What is the enrollment confirmation? It's only March, so our school is just now starting the admission process for next school year. What exactly do you mean by "enrollment confirmation"?
<b>Answer</b>	When parents apply for BOOST this spring, they indicate what school their child will (tentatively) be attending. Once the school year starts in the fall, schools will have to confirm that the student actually enrolled and is at your school.
<b>Question #7</b>	Do we have to provide parents/guardians with a letter, proving that their child is enrolled at our school? This has been required in the past.
<b>Answer</b>	No, this will not be required this year.
<b>Question #8</b>	How do I apply, as a school?
<b>Answer</b>	<p><a href="#">Here is the link</a> for schools to submit an application.</p> <p>Each participating nonpublic school will also have to create a school account to monitor and track activity on your end. Our new vendor this year for the online application is Submittable. All schools will have to create a new Submittable account this year.</p> <p>Choose wisely the email address and password when you create your Submittable account. This will be your school's official login. Feel free to share it among key staff members at your school who play a role in the BOOST program.</p>
<b>Question #9</b>	Can I just use my school login from last year?
<b>Answer</b>	All schools must create a Submittable account for this year. <a href="#">Here is the link</a> for schools to get started.
<b>Question #10</b>	Is it ok if we help parents apply?
<b>Answer</b>	<p>Absolutely! Please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The parent has to create their own personal account through Submittable.</li> <li>• Schools should listen to one of the customer service sessions we held for parents.</li> <li>• Schools should also review the FAQs for parents</li> <li>• MSDE is holding several Q &amp; A sessions for parents throughout June</li> <li>• All of these resources are available on the <a href="#">BOOST webpage</a></li> </ul>

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<b>Question #11</b>	Oops! I made a mistake on our school’s application. Can I edit it?
<b>Answer</b>	<p>Yes. Login to your account and request permission to edit your application. Then, MSDE will receive a notification that you’re requesting to edit. You’ll receive a notification once permission is granted.</p>  <p>If you still need help doing this, watch a recording of the meeting we held for schools on <a href="#">June 9</a> and scroll to 20 minutes and 47 seconds.</p>
<b>Question #12</b>	How will reporting be for Special Education students?
<b>Answer</b>	<p>When a Special Education student is granted an award, you will need to verify their enrollment at your school through the "Enrollment Confirmation" report. Through this report, you will confirm that they receive special education services and provide supporting documentation such as a 504 plan, IEP, or Individuals Services Plan (ISP) as evidence.</p> <p>It is important to note that the additional Special Education award allocated to these students should be designated specifically for services that the BOOST recipient actually receives. The school should refrain from utilizing the award for general educational services that benefit the school as a whole.</p>
<b>Question #13</b>	Our school charges other fees to families, apart from tuition, like the Building Fund and Security Fee. Should we include this? What if some students get a discounted fee? How should we indicate that?
<b>Answer</b>	The school may include in the tuition rate any fees that are charged to all families. You will be able to indicate any discounts during the Enrollment Confirmation.
<b>Question #14</b>	I heard about a program for BOOST schools that provides funds for school nurses. What is that about?
<b>Answer</b>	There is funding available for BOOST schools for school nurses, other health professionals, and school security. Schools must have participated in the BOOST program during the 2022-2023 school year to be eligible. MSDE is finalizing the guidance and administration of this program. Information will be released around the end of June. An email will be sent to the point of contact of BOOST schools, alerting them of the program release.

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<b>Question #15</b>	We operate a Catholic school, and we charge different tuition rates depending on whether the family is a member of our faith. What should we enter for the tuition?
<b>Answer</b>	You should enter the highest tuition rate that a student would be charged, if they were not a member of your school's faith. During the Enrollment Confirmation, you'll have an opportunity to indicate whether the student receives any discounts.
<b>Question #16</b>	The staff member who created our school account in Submittable doesn't work here anymore. Can we change our login?
<b>Answer</b>	Yes, you can! <a href="#">Click here for a tutorial on how to do so.</a>
<b>Question #17</b>	Can MSDE send us the student names and award amounts as soon as possible?
<b>Answer</b>	Schools will receive a list of students who have been offered and accepted a BOOST award. We cannot provide this information any sooner this year. The award amounts, though, remain the same as last year.
<b>Question #18</b>	When will families know the amount of their BOOST award?
<b>Answer</b>	These families have already received a notice that they will be receiving a BOOST award. The next communication will be an offer message to families, letting them know the value of the award(s). We hope to send this to families before the end of August.
<b>Question #19</b>	What reporting requirements must schools complete?
	There are 4 reports that schools must complete, as part of their participation in BOOST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher certification</li> <li>• BOOST student expulsion/withdrawal data</li> <li>• Assessment results</li> <li>• Enrollment confirmation</li> </ul>
<b>Question #20</b>	When is this information due?
<b>Answer</b>	If schools want to receive the first batch of checks, these reports must be completed by September 21, 2023. The next deadline for the submission of these reports is October 12, 2023. The deadline will not be extended.

Updated on August 22, 2023