



RYAN WALTERS  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT *of* PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Oklahoma State Department of Education  
**FROM:** Stacy Eden  
**DATE:** January 22, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship

The Beacon School request approval to participate in the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship for Students with Disabilities program. They are accredited through Cognia and recognized by the Oklahoma Private School Accreditation Commission charged by the Oklahoma State Department of Education with overseeing educational quality of accredited private schools in the state.

The Beacon School provides comprehensive support for students through Academic Progress Plans and Behavior Progress Plans, particularly for those traditionally on IEPs or 504 Plans. The school conducts in-house assessments for all students to identify their needs and determine necessary accommodations. Based on these assessments, the school facilitates services by inviting privately paid professionals, such as dyslexia tutors and speech therapists, to provide specialized support within the school environment.

Included is compliance documentation that meets certain criteria in the application.

- Criteria 1: Fiscal Soundness – Employee Handbook
- Criteria 2: Non-Discrimination – Student/Parent Handbook
- Criteria 3: Teacher Requirements – Employee Handbook
- Criteria 4: Accreditation – Cognia letter

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The Beacon School		Pre-K - 10th	
NAME OF PRIVATE SCHOOL		GRADE LEVELS	
2700 S. Boulevard	Edmond	OK	73013
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP + 4
405-510-0563	www.thebeaconschool.net		
PHONE NUMBER	WEBSITE ADDRESS		
Emily Jensen			
SUPERINTENDENT, HEADMASTER OR PRINCIPAL NAME			
Nicole Whalen	nicole@thebeaconschool.net		
PRIVATE SCHOOL CONTACT FOR LNH	CONTACT EMAIL		

The Lindsey Nicole Henry (LNH) Scholarship Act requires participating schools to be physical, brick-and-mortar institutions in Oklahoma and meet certain approval criteria. Schools must provide documentation to show they comply, which will be reviewed by the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE). This documentation is often found in the school's policies or handbook. Please prepare a PDF for each item listed below to email with your application.

The OSDE will approve a private school for the scholarship program if it meets the following criteria:

1. The private school must demonstrate fiscal soundness by having been in operation for one (1) year or providing the OSDE with a statement by a certified public accountant confirming that the private school is insured and the owner or owners have sufficient capital or credit to operate the school for the upcoming year by serving the number of students anticipated with expected revenues from tuition and other sources that may be reasonably expected. In lieu of a statement, a surety bond or letter of credit for the amount equal to the scholarship funds for any quarter may be filed with the Oklahoma State Department of Education. ***Proof of compliance required. Save in a PDF, and label it Criteria 1.***
2. The private school must comply with the antidiscrimination provision of 42 U.S.C. § 2000d. ***Proof of compliance required. Save in a PDF, and label it Criteria 2.***
3. The private school must employ or contract with teachers who hold baccalaureate or higher degrees, or have at least three (3) years of teaching experience in public instruction in subjects taught. ***Proof of compliance required. A statement or excerpt from the school policies or handbook stating the educational requirement for the teaching staff is acceptable documentation. Save in a PDF, and label it Criteria 3.***

4. The private school must meet the accreditation requirements set by the SDE or another accrediting association approved by the OSDE. *Please type the name of your accrediting agency in the box below. Save the accreditation approval letter or certificate as a PDF, and label it*  
**Criteria 4.**

Cognia

5. The private school must be able to provide services and/or accommodations for students with disabilities. *Please describe in detail the services, programs and support you offer to students with disabilities in the box below.*

Beacon has initiated creative ways to support students needing individualized learning plans. We have created Academic Progress Plans along with Behavior Progress Plans for students who would traditionally be on an IEP or 504 in public school. Our BPP's and APP's are formal written plans for supporting our students with unique learning needs and include classroom accommodations along with suggestions for how families can partner with us to support their children.

We currently offer in school assessments for all students to determine needs and/or accommodations that need to be made. After assessing students, services such as privately paid dyslexia tutors, speech therapists, etc. are invited into the school to accommodate these needs.

I verify that The Beacon School complies with all the criteria listed  
NAME OF PRIVATE SCHOOL

above and will provide documentation for each as proof. The information I have provided to the OSDE is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Gonily Jensen  
SIGNATURE

1/14/25  
DATE

#### How to Submit the Private School Application to participate in the LNH Scholarship

1. Save each criterion as an individual PDF, labeling them as "Criteria 1," "Criteria 2," and so on.
2. Email the complete application, along with all required PDF attachments to [stacy.eden@sde.ok.gov](mailto:stacy.eden@sde.ok.gov). You may also contact Stacy at (405) 521-4876.

## Criteria 1: Fiscal Soundness

1. The Beacon School demonstrates fiscal soundness by having been in operation for the last 6 years. Proof of compliance can be found on page 2 of The Beacon Employee Handbook.

Dear Beacon School Employee,

Welcome to The Beacon School!

We are so excited to have you on our innovative and creative team! You were brought onto our team because we believe you will contribute to our overall success, help us achieve our goals and share the same commitment to the mission and vision that we've had since the inception of the school in 2019.

The Beacon School is committed to providing quality and creative educational opportunities for our students and unparalleled customer service for our families in all aspects of our business.

This employee handbook contains information on the policies and expectations you will need to follow as part of The Beacon School team. The success of The Beacon School is dependent upon how well we operate as a unified team. We must earn the trust and respect of our school's families every day to prove ourselves worthy of their continued loyalty. We must also treat each other with love, kindness and respect.

We believe that our greatest assets are creative, productive employees, empowered to make suggestions and think "outside the box". Every employee's job is to make decisions that align with our values to help lead us to the realization of our mission.

Our primary goal at The Beacon School is to approach our work with a focus on our mission and vision statements of meeting individual children's needs and creating an environment that celebrates and honors each child as a one-of-a-kind gift destined to positively impact the world.

This handbook will be a valuable reference throughout each employee's career with The Beacon School. The policies contained herein are intended to ensure consistent management and fair treatment of all employees. From time to time, employees may have questions that are not answered by this handbook. If so, please feel free to discuss them with the Chief Executive Director of School. At The Beacon School, we strive to positively develop our team and recognize the contributions of each employee.

## Criteria 2: Non-Discrimination Policy

2. The Beacon School complies with the antidiscrimination provision of 42 U.S.C. 2000d. Proof of compliance comes from The Beacon Student/Parent Handbook page 11.

### Admission Information

Beacon does not discriminate based on gender, race, religion or national or ethnic origin. All students are selected for admission into Beacon based on available space and suitable fit for a specific child's needs and for the school's needs. These needs are determined at the sole discretion of the Executive Director of the School.

The Beacon School admits students from families who desire a creative, engaging, rigorous, project-based, and well-balanced approach to education, and who support and agree to abide by its policies outlined in this Handbook. Students and families are required to apply to Beacon by submitting an application form first, followed by an in-person interview with the parent(s) and child(ren) seeking acceptance into Beacon. These interviews will be scheduled, arranged and conducted by the Director of Beacon. After an application and interview are reviewed and accepted, the student and parents will be required to follow the procedures outlined in the section of this Handbook titled "Enrollment" in order to complete the enrollment process.

### Criteria 3: Teacher Requirement

3. The Beacon School employs and contracts with teachers who hold baccalaureate or higher degrees, or have at least three (3) years of teaching experience in public instruction in subjects taught. Proof of compliance comes from the Employee Handbook Page 12.

#### **Professional Qualifications**

Instructional Staff shall have a minimum of a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science Degree from a recognized college or university. The requirement may be waived by the Board in the case of part-time teachers, Specials teachers, or those working on their degree while teaching.

Instructional Staff shall have had (or are willing to pursue) continuing education courses specifically pertaining to creative Christian education.

## Criteria 4: Accreditation

October 31, 2024

The Beacon School  
2700 S Boulevard  
Edmond, Oklahoma 73013

Dear Administrator:

Congratulations! The Beacon School has been awarded accreditation by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). The three listed regional agencies provide your institution with a highly regarded accreditation that is recognized throughout the world.

The accreditation action was approved by the Cognia™ Global Commission at its meeting on October 31, 2024.

A certificate that indicates the term of your institution's accreditation is enclosed. Throughout this term of accreditation, The Beacon School must continue to engage in the responsibilities required of all institutions to maintain accreditation status as outlined in the *Cognia Accreditation and Certification Policies and Procedures* available at [www.cognia.org](http://www.cognia.org).

As an accredited institution, you are part of the Cognia global network: more than 40,000 schools and systems in 90 countries that are committed to continuous improvement through accreditation. Our state, national, and global offices offer a wide range of resources and services dedicated to institutional improvement. We would be happy to provide you with more information.

To help you announce and celebrate your accreditation, we are providing you with a press release that you may share with your local media. You can access the press release by visiting [cognia.org/communicationskit](http://cognia.org/communicationskit). In the kit, you also will find brochures, accreditation seals, and other promotional items to display your pride in your institution's accreditation and your commitment to continuous improvement.

If you have questions regarding the enclosed certificate, e-mail us at [accreditation.certificates@cognia.org](mailto:accreditation.certificates@cognia.org). Staff members at our Cognia Accreditation and Certification offices can also answer any questions you may have and can be reached at +1.678.392.2285 or [accreditationservices@cognia.org](mailto:accreditationservices@cognia.org).

We look forward to serving you now and in the future.

Sincerely,



David Hurst, Ed.D.  
Chief Global Accreditation Officer