



Dear Parents,

It's an exciting time for Catholic education in the state of Iowa!

It is with great exhilaration that we celebrate a win for Iowa families– the ability for families to choose the school that best fits their child's needs! The Students First Act was passed in the Iowa House and Senate and was signed into law by Governor Reynolds at 11 a.m. today. ESAs are now a reality for Iowa families beginning in the 23-24 school year and beyond! Thank you for sharing your voice with your legislators and friends.

The Student First Bill maintains the independence of our Catholic schools. This bill will not restrict or change the current Iowa Core and faith-based curriculum we offer as accredited schools in Iowa. Faith will continue at the core of all we do and who we are as we remain rooted in Christ!

We take pride in the tradition of our smaller class sizes, family-centered culture, and unique climate provided by each of our schools. We will continue to maintain these qualities as we open our arms to welcome more children to experience the Catholic education difference. Currently, most of our schools have room to accommodate additional students and anticipate the enrollment growth to be gradual over the next three years. School admission procedures will be maintained with current students, followed by their siblings, then parishioners, and finally, non-Catholic students.

How will the Education Savings Account work?

The government-created savings account state funds of \$7,568 will be deposited into each student's Education Savings Account-(ESA). Parents will be issued a debit card, similar to a Health Savings Account (HSA), to cover qualified expenses such as tuition, fees, tutoring, and curriculum materials. Any balances in a student's account will remain in their account and can be used until high school graduation or the age of 20.

ESA Eligibility:

YEAR 1 (2023-2024)

- All Kindergarten students.
- All public school students.
- Private school students at or below 300% FPL (\$90,000 for a family of four).

YEAR 2 (2024-2025)

- All Kindergarten students.
- All public school students.
- Private school students at or below 400% FPL (\$120,000 for a family of four).

YEAR 3 (2025-2026)

- All K-12 students in Iowa. *Regardless of income.*



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Additional Tuition Assistance:

Tuition assistance does not affect ESA eligibility. All families who qualify for tuition assistance according to the new income guidelines below will still need to apply. The process and timeframe for the distribution of ESA funds are still being determined. Our schools will share details as that information is made available. In addition, tuition assistance from CTO and the new diocesan tuition assistance fund will remain available, as detailed in the chart below. Each of our schools will provide additional information regarding tuition assistance.

FAMILY SIZE	CTO MAXIMUM INCOME	NEW DIOCESAN TUITION ASSISTANCE MAXIMUM INCOME
2	\$78,880	\$98,600
3	\$99,440	\$124,300
4	\$120,000	\$150,000
5	\$140,560	\$175,700
6	\$161,120	\$201,400
7	\$181,680	\$227,100
8	\$202,240	\$252,800

We are so thankful for the support and multi-year efforts of Governor Reynolds and our state representatives in understanding the need to allow parents to determine the education that best meets the needs of their children.

May God continue to bless us abundantly as we prepare to serve all families that desire a Catholic education.

Donna Bishop, ED.S
Superintendent of Catholic Schools