



Office of  
Catholic Education  
Catholic Diocese  
of Cleveland

2025-2026

## Diocesan Tuition Assistance (DTA) *Frequently Asked Questions*

### 1. How does my school opt in to DTA?

Schools decide independently whether or not to participate in the Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program, and answer accordingly via the Standard School Survey each fall for the following year. If a school opts out of DTA consideration, they will be removing families from the option of receiving diocesan funds and will rely on their own school and/or parish funds to provide financial support to their students.

### 2. How much aid is granted?

Diocesan Tuition Assistance is made possible through a combination of endowed funding and the contributions of many generous donors throughout the diocese to educational initiatives such as the Rooted in Faith-Forward in Hope Campaign and the Alleluia Ball. Thanks to the efforts of the Catholic Community Foundation, about \$4 million in diocesan tuition assistance was distributed to students.

Within the DTA pool are several diocesan scholarship opportunities for primary and secondary students, including the School Employee Fund, Bishops' Scholarship for Excellence, the M. Thomas Moore Scholarship, and the GEIS Scholarship Program.

### 3. How are awards determined?

Need is the primary consideration when determining awards. The Office of Catholic Education uses a third-party assessment provider, currently *FACTS Grant & Aid*, to determine the relative need of applicants. We believe that the *FACTS* application is an objective and credible tool for identifying financial need and projecting how much a family can afford to pay in tuition, the qualifying factors for tuition assistance eligibility. **Completion of the *FACTS* application is required for a student to be considered for Diocesan Tuition Assistance.**

*Families with students attending Benedictine, Cleveland Central Catholic, Elyria Catholic, Holy Name, Lake Catholic, St. Joseph Academy, St. Martin de Porres, Trinity, & Villa Angela-St. Joseph High Schools should contact the school directly to apply for Diocesan Tuition Assistance funds.*

Schools have the option to either participate in a limited capacity with reduced access to their families' data, or to contract with *FACTS* for full access to reporting and data. Please keep in mind that contracting is a no-cost option that will provide each school with the full spectrum of *FACTS Grant & Aid* capabilities. If your school or parish requires financial assessment to distribute financial aid, contracting with *FACTS Grant & Aid* may provide the information necessary to make financial aid decisions for your students.

### 4. Where do our families access the *FACTS* application?

The application can be accessed online at: [online.factsmtg.com/aid](https://online.factsmtg.com/aid). While applications for DTA officially open in January of 2025, families with incoming freshman may have started the application earlier due to the acceptance decision timeline of the high schools. To be considered for diocesan tuition assistance, families must provide 2023 tax documentation (if submitted before April 15th, 2025). After April 15th, 2025, the 2024 Form 1040 will be required. **Paper applications are not available; applications and document uploads must be completed online.**

## 5. What are the deadlines for families to apply for Diocesan Tuition Assistance?

New this year, the Office of Catholic Education is prioritizing **one deadline to apply for DTA**. This will allow us to make award recommendations earlier to help schools better prepare tuition agreements for the upcoming school year. This deadline is early to complement the registration timeline of many of our schools. If there is still remaining funding available after this round, a second round of applicants may be reviewed. Parents are welcome to apply past the March 15th deadline; however, there is no guarantee their application will be reviewed for an award past that date.

*Deadline for DTA applications is March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

## 6. Is there any reason a parent should not fill out a FACTS application?

- If the school or parish has decided not to participate in the DTA process and are not using FACTS Grant & Aid to award local funds.
- If a family indicates that they are not in need of tuition assistance.
- If the student has other scholarship funding which covers the cost of tuition, e.g., scholarships from a religious community, special academic scholarships, or memorial scholarships.

## 7. How likely am I to receive a DTA award? And how much will I potentially receive?

Those that received an award in the past and have not had substantial changes to their financial situation will likely be awarded again. That said, due to the changes in EdChoice legislation, there will be families that receive an award this school year that wouldn't have in prior years. DTA award recipients and amounts will be determined based on the volume of verified FACTS applications we receive and their corresponding financial need.

## 8. I know a family that would like to apply for financial assistance through the diocese, but they will not have Form 1040 available by the application deadline. Will they still be able to apply?

This should not be a challenge as prior to the date of April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the application allows parents to upload their prior year Form 1040 (2023). After April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, parents will need to upload their 2024 Form 1040, in the event of an extension beyond this date, the tax requirement may be allowed to be waived, if a Form 1040 from the prior year (2023) is available. Please instruct families in this situation to contact Dené Hummon by email at [dhummon@dioceseofcleveland.org](mailto:dhummon@dioceseofcleveland.org) to have this document waived.

## 9. Whom can we contact with questions?

For questions about your application contact <b>FACTS</b> . Help Line for all users: (866) 441-4637	<b>Diocesan Tuition Assistance:</b> Dené Hummon, Director of Scholarships & Enrollment Email: <a href="mailto:dhummon@dioceseofcleveland.org">dhummon@dioceseofcleveland.org</a> Phone: (216) 696-6525 ext. 4150	<b>Special Scholarships, Emergency Assistance School Employee Fund Awards:</b> Cindy Williams, Grant & Special Scholarship Coordinator Email: <a href="mailto:cwilliams@dioceseofcleveland.org">cwilliams@dioceseofcleveland.org</a> Phone: (216) 696-6525 ext. 2830
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## 10. How do parents submit an application for the Angel Scholarship Fund for designated funds available to my school?

To be considered for a designated Angel Scholarship award, parents should complete one application per student through the centralized diocesan application, which can be found [here](#).