



What types of education expenses are covered?

- Catholic School tuition & fees
- Textbooks, curriculum or other instructional materials
- Tutoring services
- Technology used for education
- Educational services for pupils with disabilities
- Any other educational expense approved by the S.C. Dept. of Education!



For more information, visit charlestdiocese.org/schools/trust



What is the ESTF?

In May 2023, Gov. Henry McMaster signed the Education Scholarship Trust Fund Act into law.

This new ESTF program – modeled after similar programs around the country – allows qualifying South Carolina parents to apply for an annual scholarship worth \$6,000 per child.

These scholarships may be used to create a customized, flexible education for students – including tuition for nonpublic schools.



Applications for the Education Scholarship Trust Fund Open

January 15!

\$6,000 per eligible student can be used for education costs – including Catholic school tuition





Is my child eligible?

1 Your child must be a resident of South Carolina.

They must have EITHER attended a South Carolina public school during the previous school year, OR have not yet attained the age of five on or before September 1st of the previous school year but have attained the age of five on or before September 1st of the current school year, OR have received a scholarship the previous school year.

3 You must have a household income that does not exceed 200% of the federal poverty guidelines

4 Students currently enrolled in a public charter school, home school students, and students participating in the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children's Fund program are not eligible for this scholarship program.

What household income qualifies for the 2024-2025 school year?

2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines
May be updated January 2024

Persons in Family	Poverty Guideline	200% of Poverty Guideline
1	\$14,580	\$29,160
2	\$19,720	\$39,440
3	\$24,860	\$49,720
4	\$30,000	\$60,000
5	\$35,140	\$70,280
6	\$40,280	\$80,560
7	\$45,420	\$90,840
8	\$50,560	\$101,120

For households with greater than eight people, add \$10,280 for each additional person.

What if my household income exceeds the current eligibility requirement?

This program will increase over the next few years to include more families:

2024-2025 school year < 200% of federal poverty guidelines

2025-2026 school year < 300% of federal poverty guidelines

2026-2027 and subsequent school years < 400% of federal poverty guidelines

What if the tuition to attend Catholic school is more than \$6,000?

Any ESTF qualifying family applying to a school whose tuition is above \$6,000 will need to apply for financial aid through the individual schools via FACTS Grant and Aid.

When a qualifying family applies for financial aid through FACTS Grant and Aid, the full amount of the \$6,000 will be deducted from their calculated need, therefore lowering any additional financial assistance.

EXAMPLE: If a family has a FACTS calculated need of \$10,000 and they qualified for the \$6,000 ESTF, their revised calculated need for FACTS will be \$4,000 – regardless of how they chose to spend the \$6,000.



Where can I learn more?

charlestdiocese.org/schools/trust

