



How Does the ESA Apply to You?

YEAR 1 (2023 - 24)	YEAR 2 (2024 - 25)	YEAR 3 (2025 - 26)
All kindergarten students All public school students Private school students at or below 300% FPL	All kindergarten students All public school students Private school students at or below 400% FPL	All K-12 students in Iowa regardless of income

Frequently Asked Questions

How will ESAs affect our school's mission and culture?

The new ESA legislation was carefully written to maintain the independence of private schools. As a Catholic school, faith will continue to be central to our mission. There are no restrictions or changes to our curriculum that will result from this legislation. We will continue to have Mass, religion classes, reconciliation and all of our current faith activities.

Will class sizes increase dramatically?

We know parents value personal attention for their students and the close-knit community at St. Anthony. Current class size guidelines will not be increased by this new legislation. In grades with open seats, we will welcome new students according to our current admissions process. We currently have room to accommodate approximately 80 students across grades K-8 but anticipate the growth will be gradual over the next few years.

Will current students be guaranteed a spot at St. Anthony? Will current families with younger children be given priority?

All current students will be guaranteed enrollment. For current families with younger children, the existing process for enrollment will continue. Siblings of current students receive the highest priority, followed by parishioners, then Catholics from other parishes and then all other families. Registration timelines will be announced for each category, and it is important that current families register early before open enrollment begins in the spring.

If my family has received tuition assistance in the past, do I still need to apply? How will the process work for families who might qualify for the first time this year?

All families who qualify for tuition assistance according to the new income guidelines released in January should still apply. The process and timeframe for the distribution of ESA funds is still being determined. Significant work will take place by the state and our schools to establish a plan over the coming months, but we may not know the specifics until after the tuition assistance application deadline of April 18. Receiving tuition assistance from CTO, the new Diocesan Tuition Assistance fund or other sources does not affect ESA eligibility. Applying for tuition assistance can only help a family's financial situation.

What if the amount of the ESA is greater than the cost of tuition?

Any ESA funds beyond the cost of tuition and other qualifying expenses will remain in the student's account to be used through high school graduation. This means the account balance can grow during K-8 years to help cover the cost of DCHS tuition.

Will tuition next year be increased to match the \$7,598 included in the ESA?

No. The schools in the Des Moines region will continue implementing the five year plan for tuition increases to fund teacher compensation that is comparable with public schools. Small adjustments may take place to align with the new ESA program.