



How Does the ESA Apply to You?

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

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 Dowling Catholic. Under the current staffing model we have room to grow total average enrollment by 100-150 students while maintaining our current faculty:student ratio. Some of our core classes accommodate up to 28 students while other specialized classes may be significantly smaller. We anticipate the growth will be gradual over the next few years.

If my family has received tuition assistance in the past, do I still need to apply?

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 DCHS 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?

Though the ESA amount is less than tuition at Dowling Catholic, this may be a consideration for families with K-8 students. 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.