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, awarded funds in the 2022-2023 academic year exceeded $3.5 million distributed to over 4,000 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, the GEIS Scholarship Program, the Fund a Dream Scholarship.

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 in order for a student to be considered for Diocesan Tuition Assistance.

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.factsmgt.com/aid. While applications for DTA officially open in January of 2023, 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, these families must update their application with 2022 tax documentation when available.

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?

As in past years, the OCE will offer two sessions to apply for DTA. However, there will be no reconsiderations. Two rounds of DTA are offered to accommodate those who won't have their updated tax information completed before the round one deadline. The round one deadline is early to complement the registration timeline of many of our schools.

Deadline for Round 1: March 15, 2023

Deadline for Round 2: May 15, 2023

Please note that each qualifying student is only awarded once. If a student is awarded in the first round, they are not considered in the second.

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; memorial scholarships.

7. 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?

The second-round deadline of May 15, 2023 will allow most families enough time to submit tax documentation. In the event of an extension beyond this date, the tax requirement may be allowed to be waived, as long as Form 1040 from the prior year is available. Please instruct families in this situation to contact Paul Gnatowski by email at Pgnatowski@dioceseofcleveland.org to have this document waived.

8. Whom can we contact with questions?

For questions about **Diocesan Tuition Assistance**, please contact:
Paul Gnatowski, Tuition Assistance and Financial Reporting Analyst
By email: Pgnatowski@dioceseofcleveland.org
By phone: (216) 696-6525 ext. 1032

For questions about **Diocesan Scholarships, Emergency Assistance and School Employee Fund Awards,** please contact:
Cindy Williams, Grant & Special Scholarship Coordinator
By email: cwilliams@dioceseofcleveland.org
By phone: (216) 696-6525 ext. 2830

For questions about **FACTS,** please contact:
Mike Rivard, FACTS Regional Vice President, via email: mrivard@factsmgt.com
or
Alyse Belanger, FACTS Account Manager, via email: abelange@factsmgt.com
or
Help Line for all users: (866) 441-4637