

## **Frequently Asked Questions about the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools Tuition Assistance Program.**

### **What is Tuition Assistance?**

Tuition Assistance is a financial award, applied to your tuition as a credit, provided to families facing economic challenges, to ensure that their children can enroll, or remain enrolled in our Catholic Schools.

### **How do I know if my family is eligible to apply for Tuition Assistance?**

All families enrolled in the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools, Transitional Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, are eligible to apply. Income is one determining factor, however, family personal and socio-economic circumstances also impact the tuition assistance determination.

### **How and when do I apply?**

Information is available on the BCACS website-[www.bcacs.org](http://www.bcacs.org) and through the administration office. The required application is the FACTS Grant and Aid application. Along with the application, supporting documentation and a processing fee must be included with submission.

### **What does FACTS Grand and Aid do with the information that I provide?**

The Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools contract with FACTS in order to assure each family a fair and impartial evaluation of their family's financial picture. FACTS gathers information from our families and then provides a summary report to the BCACS administrative office. This report ranks families by financial need and provides a recommendation of award amounts.

### **Does my information remain private?**

You can be assured that all family information is regarded as highly confidential.

### **Is there support or help if I have questions about the completing the application?**

Absolutely! Cathy Erskine, Enrollment Management officer for the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools (963.1131 or [cerskine@bcacs.org](mailto:cerskine@bcacs.org)), is available to meet with families by appointment, to help complete the application.

### **How will I be notified if my family has received an award of Tuition Assistance?**

All applicants are notified regarding the amount and type of assistance awarded, via mail or email. All assistance awards are applied to tuition account, across the chosen payment plan, prior to the first billing statement.

### **Are there multiple Tuition Assistance awards available, and do I have to fill out an application for each one?**

FACTS Grand and Aid is the only application for all available tuition assistance awards. Your family may be the recipient of several awards. Your award letter will indicate the total tuition assistance received, and provide a breakdown of each specific award.

### **How many families typically receive a Tuition Assistance award?**

The average number of applicants is over 100 families, representing 200 students. Typically, over \$200,000 is distributed. Every effort is made to fairly distribute the available dollars among the applicants.

### **If I receive an award, what are the expectations?**

Families are expected to maintain their tuition payment schedule, make certain that their students attend school as expected, and support them to achieve their best.

### **If my family receives an award, how can I express my appreciation?**

Families are encouraged to acknowledge their tuition assistance with a thank you letter to the donors, sent in care of the BCACS Foundation, 63 North 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Battle Creek, MI 49015.

### **How is the Tuition Assistance program funded?**

The tuition assistance dollars are raised and managed by the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools Foundation, from these sources:

- Direct, individual contributions for tuition assistance from parishioners, grandparents, alumni and friends of our Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools.
- The interest earned on special endowed funds established for the purpose of providing tuition assistance.

### **Will administrators and staff be aware that my family has received a Tuition Assistance award?**

No. The Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools and Foundation consciously keep tuition assistance information highly confidential.

### **Are there other ways to reduce my tuition?**

Yes! The schools offer a gift certificate program, School Cost Reduction Incentive Program, (SCRIP) designed to provide a tuition rebate to participating families. A broad inventory of certificates are available for purchase (grocery, gas, restaurants, etc). We are able to purchase the certificates at a reduced rate, sell them a full value and pass the savings onto families. **For even more convenience, you can also purchase SCRIP electronically!** Credits earned are applied bi-annually to tuition accounts. Regular use of the program can result in reducing your tuition by hundreds of dollars!

Families are also eligible to participate in our **“New Student” Referral Program**. Simply refer a new family to the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools, and once they have enrolled, you will earn up to a \$500 tuition rebate.

### **Once my family no longer relies on the support of the Tuition Assistance program, how can I give back?**

The Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools Foundation relies on the support and generosity of individual donors in order to provide the annual tuition assistance to families in need. Your tax-deductible donation is greatly appreciated! Contact Louanne McIntyre at 963.4771, or [lmcintyre@bcacs.org](mailto:lmcintyre@bcacs.org) for further information