

## Frequently Asked Questions, Utah Fits All Scholarship

### Utah Catholic Schools

#### **What is the Utah Fits All Scholarship?**

Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, the Utah Fits All Scholarship Program will provide up to \$8,000 to about 5,000 Utah K-12 students through an education savings account (ESA). Scholarship accounts may be used for education expenses and services, including private school tuition and fees, tutoring services, testing fees, materials and curriculum costs, contracted services, and more. The entire program is outlined in [Utah Code 53F-6-4](#). **In Catholic Schools**, this Scholarship can be directly applied to school tuition and fees.

#### **Will the Catholic School System accept the \$8,000 Utah Fits All Scholarship and apply it to my child's tuition and fees?**

If your child is accepted into one of our Catholic schools, the school will apply this scholarship to your tuition and fees. Bishop Solis and the Catholic Schools' Office support and endorse this program and recommend that parents apply for these scholarship funds.

#### **How and why did the program come into being?**

The Utah Fits All Scholarship Program came to be through [HB215](#) during the 2023 General Legislative Session. The Utah legislature has provided \$42.5 million in annual appropriations for the program.

#### **Who is eligible?**

To access the Utah Fits All Scholarship Program, students must be **residents** of the State of Utah and eligible to participate in public school in kindergarten through grade 12. While the applications will be prioritized and awarded based on income and previous participation, the program is universal for those who meet eligibility requirements, and all are welcome to apply.

#### **Can my child receive the Utah Fits All Scholarship if they are already receiving the Carson Smith or the Special Needs Opportunity Scholarships?**

Students may not receive funds from the program while also receiving funding from either the Carson Smith Scholarship Program or the Special Needs Opportunity Scholarship Program. **In Catholic schools**, parents should discuss with the principal which scholarship program would be best for the student.

#### **How do parents/guardians sign up for the Utah Fits All Scholarship?**

**In Catholic Schools**, existing parents and perspective parents are being asked to pre-apply at [www.dioslc.org/utahfitsall](http://www.dioslc.org/utahfitsall) and select a Catholic school of their choice. This way the selected school can connect with the parents and begin the application process. Then when the States scholarship portal opens in March 2024, parents will

need to apply through the State's scholarship portal. If a student is approved for the scholarship, parents will need to notify their selected Catholic school.

### **How does funding work?**

Eligible students can receive up to \$8,000. The funds are deposited into a scholarship account, or ESA, which is set up specifically for the student. The funds are accessed and managed through an online portal.

### **What if enrollment in the program exceeds the amount of funding available?**

If enrollment exceeds available program funding, accounts shall be awarded in the following order: Students who used an account in the previous school year; Students with a family income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (\$60,000 for a family of four in 2023–24); Students with a sibling who uses an ESA at the time of application or in the immediately preceding school year; Students with a family income between 200% and 555% of the federal poverty level (\$166,500 for a family of four in 2023–2024).

### **Why do I need to pre-apply to the Catholic school system now when the portal opens in March of 2024?**

The Catholic School System is the largest private school system in Utah. There are a limited number of openings at each school. Some schools may be able to accommodate more scholarship students than others. We want to ensure that our current families that qualify take advantage of the scholarship and then we want to be able to plan for the registration and acceptance of new families in an organized and efficient manner.

### **Who can I talk to if I have additional questions?**

Utah Catholic Schools has set up a bilingual phone hotline. (English/Espanol), Please feel free to call 1-866-498-3321

## **Timeline**

### **When will the program go into operation? What does the timeline look like?**

- January 28th, 2023: HB215 signed into law
- September: **For Catholic Schools:** Current parents are asked to pre-apply for the scholarship at [www.dioslc.org/utahfitsall](http://www.dioslc.org/utahfitsall)
- October/November: Catholic Parents in feeder parishes(Catholic parishes without schools) are encouraged to pre-apply and select a Catholic School of their choice at [www.dioslc.org/utahfitsall](http://www.dioslc.org/utahfitsall)
- October-March: All perspective parents who are interested in enrolling their children in Catholic school are encouraged to pre-apply on the Catholic Schools' website [www.dioslc.org/utahfitsall](http://www.dioslc.org/utahfitsall)
- December 2023: Program manager selected by the State
- March 2024: Online Application Portal opens
- Parents Notify School if they have received the Scholarship
- 2024-2025 School Year: 1st Year of Program Implementation