



# ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS Catholic Schools

Open Doors



Open Arms



Open Hearts

## What Makes a Catholic School Special

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ARE ...

- Centered in the person of Jesus Christ
- Contributing to the evangelizing mission of the Church
- Distinguished by excellence
- Committed to educate the whole child
- Steeped in a Catholic world view
- Sustained by Gospel witness
- Shaped by communion and community
- Accessible to all students
- Established by the expressed authority of the bishop

*(“Defining Characteristics of Catholic Schools”; National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools)*

### RESEARCH SAYS ...

- Catholic schools tend to operate as communities rather than bureaucracies, which links to higher levels of teacher commitment, student engagement and student achievement (Marks, 2009).
- In Catholic schools, the student achievement gap is smaller than in public schools (Jeynes, 2007; Marks & Lee, 1989).
- Latino and African American students in Catholic schools are more likely to graduate from high school and college (Grogger & Neal, 2000).
- Graduates of Catholic high schools are more likely to earn higher wages (Neal, 1997).
- Catholic schools tend to produce graduates who are more civically engaged, more tolerant of diverse views, and more committed to service as adults (Campbell, 2001; Wolf, Greene, Kleitz, & Thalhammer, 2001).
- When a Catholic school closes, neighborhood disorder increases (Brinig & Garnett, 2009).

*(University of Notre Dame. For more information, log onto [ace.nd.edu/resources/catholic-school-research/researched-case-for-catholic-schools](http://ace.nd.edu/resources/catholic-school-research/researched-case-for-catholic-schools))*



Champré Kemp and Sam Kennedy lead the procession of 2016 Bishop Chatard High School graduates on May 20, 2016. (Photo courtesy of Tiffany Photography Studio)

## LEARN MORE

### Open Doors + Open Arms + Open Hearts

The students in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Catholic schools are doing great things! Please take the time to review a special publication from the Office of Catholic Schools at [www.archindy.org/OCS-Special-Publication-2016-2017/index.html](http://www.archindy.org/OCS-Special-Publication-2016-2017/index.html) highlighting our Catholics schools and those who help make us what we are today!



## How can we AFFORD CATHOLIC SCHOOL?

Understanding Tax Credit Scholarships and Indiana School Vouchers

My child is enrolled at a Catholic school.

I meet these eligibility requirements:

- Indiana resident
- My family is between 100% and 200% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart).

## TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP

CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INCOME LIMITS BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR			
	100% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility	150% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility	200% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility
Persons in Household	Annual household income limit for a "90%" Choice Scholarship*	Annual household income limit for a "50%" Choice Scholarship*	Annual household income limit for a "50%" Choice Scholarship*
1	\$21,978	\$32,967	\$43,959
2	\$29,637	\$44,456	\$59,274
3	\$37,296	\$55,944	\$74,592
4	\$44,955	\$67,433	\$89,910
5	\$52,614	\$78,921	\$105,228
6	\$60,273	\$90,410	\$120,546
7	\$67,932	\$101,898	\$135,864
8	\$75,591	\$113,387	\$151,182

Note: Income levels are determined in accordance with the *Income Verification Rules* Document available at [www.doe.in.gov/choice](http://www.doe.in.gov/choice).

- \* For a household size of nine (9) or more, add \$7,696 to the annual limit for each additional member for a "100%" of Reduced Lunch Eligibility "90%" Choice Scholarship.
- \*\* Add \$11,544 to the annual limit for each additional member for a "150%" Reduced Lunch Eligibility "50%" Choice Scholarship.
- \*\*\* Add \$15,392 to the annual limit for each additional member for a "200%" of Reduced Lunch Eligibility "50%" Choice Scholarship.

### What are Tax Credit Scholarships?

The Indiana Tax Credit Scholarship Program provides scholarship support to families who want to enroll their children in the Catholic school of their choice. Qualifying students in grades K-12 can receive a minimum of a \$500 Tax Credit Scholarship.

### Who qualifies for a Tax Credit Scholarship?

- A student whose family meets the income eligibility guidelines for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program (see chart), AND
- A student who is coming to a Catholic school after attending at least one year (two semesters) in an Indiana public school, AND/OR
- A student who is enrolled in an eligible Catholic school.

### Why should I apply now?

If your family qualifies for assistance, but you do not apply when your child first enters school, you may lose the opportunity for a Voucher or Tax Credit Scholarship for the next 12-13 years. Current Catholic school students CAN receive a Tax Credit Scholarship, making them eligible for a Voucher the following year.

### How do I apply for a Tax Credit Scholarship?

1. To see how much tuition assistance you are eligible for, first register at your Catholic school of choice.
2. To apply for funding, visit [www.i4qed.org/sgo](http://www.i4qed.org/sgo).

Additional local scholarships may also be available. Contact your local Catholic school.

I'm moving my child in grades K-12 to a Catholic school from a public school.

I meet these eligibility requirements:

- Indiana resident
- Apply before September 1, 2017
- My child attended public school the previous year (two semesters) OR received a Tax Credit Scholarship or Voucher the previous school year.

AND one of the following:

My family is at or below 200% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart).

My family is at or below 150% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart).

My family is at or below 200% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level and my child qualifies for an IEP.

## K-12 SCHOOL VOUCHERS

### What is an Indiana School Voucher?

A Voucher is a state-funded scholarship that helps cover the cost of tuition at a private school. Qualifying students in grades K-12 can receive up to 90% of the local per-student state funding amount.

### Who qualifies for a Voucher?

- A student whose family meets the income eligibility guidelines for Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program (see chart), AND
- A student in grades K-12 who is coming to a Catholic school after attending at least one year (two semesters) in an Indiana public school, AND/OR
- A sibling received a Tax Credit Scholarship or Voucher, AND/OR
- A sibling living in an "F" school area, AND/OR
- A current Catholic school student in grades K-12 who has received a Tax Credit Scholarship in a prior year, AND/OR
- A student with learning exceptionalities qualified through an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

### Why should I apply now?

If your family qualifies for assistance, but you do not apply when your child first enters school, you may lose the opportunity for a Voucher or Tax Credit Scholarship for the next 12-13 years. Students enrolled in a Catholic school CAN receive a Tax Credit Scholarship, making them eligible for a Voucher the following year.

### How do I apply for a Voucher?

1. To see how much tuition assistance you are eligible for, first register at your Catholic school of choice.
2. To apply for funding, visit [www.doe.in.gov/choice](http://www.doe.in.gov/choice).

Pre-K vouchers are available in Marion and Jackson counties. For more information, log onto [www.in.gov/fssa/4944.htm](http://www.in.gov/fssa/4944.htm).