

Distribution of CEF-SGO Funds

The State of Ohio requires Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGO) to **prioritize** low-income families in scholarship awarding. Priority will be given to households at or below 300% of the federal poverty level guidelines. A means of income verification must be utilized when determining awards, most commonly the Ohio EdChoice Income Verification Form or FACTS Grant and Aid Management. The school will determine which families have the greatest financial need (at or below 300%). Once priority awarding has been met, schools can then allocate additional tuition assistance by utilizing the tiered and proportional scale below:

- 300% and below
- 301% to 400%
- 401% to 500%
- 501% to 600%
- 601% to 700%
- 700% and above

There is no maximum dollar limit per scholarship at any level. Effective October 3, 2023, Section 3310.13(F) of the Ohio Revised Code permits schools to accept private scholarships issued by an SGO as payment for the difference between the amount of the EdChoice Scholarship and the regular tuition charge of the school, as well as for any fees regularly charged by the school. This applies to EdChoice low-income students as well.

How To Distribute Funds

1. Schools can request funds at any point. A listing of awarded students should be sent to Lisa at LHusting@CatholicAOC.org in the Catholic Schools Office, along with the family poverty level percentage and the amount of the scholarship.
2. After receiving/reviewing the awarded students, the Catholic Schools Office will send a payment request to the Finance Office.
3. Payment will be sent directly to the schools from the Finance Office.
4. Notice of the school's fund balance (if >\$0) will be sent to the school twice a year: after the accounting reconciliations for June and December have been completed. The most recent available fund balance can also be requested periodically by emailing SGO@CatholicAOC.org.

In the event there are excess funds in the restricted account, they will be rolled over into the next year.

If you have any questions, please email Kent Halaby at KHalaby@CatholicAOC.org.

Sincerely,

*Catholic Education Foundation
for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati*