



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

Diocese of Salt Lake City
October 2004

Getting to Know Our Catholic Schools

Parish Support for Catholic Schools – New Policy

The parish is the basic unit of the Diocese and supports many important ministries. The Catholic school is one of these ministries. The entire Catholic community is asked to support the Catholic schools by providing time, treasure and talent. Catholics must take ownership of the education of their children if they value a quality faith-based education. The parish and school are partners with parents in passing on the Catholic faith, traditions and beliefs. All Catholics are called to evangelize. Catholic schools are part of the evangelization effort of the Church.

Until this school year 2004-2005, the diocesan policy on “parish support (subsidy)” allowed parents with children attending Catholic schools to approach their pastor and ask for parish approval status. The parish subsidized the education of this Catholic family by paying \$200-250 per year to the school. This qualified the family for a lower subsidized tuition whether they had financial need or not.

A new policy for parish support was approved by the Diocesan School Board and promulgated by the Bishop in January 2004. Instead of subsidizing families with a lower tuition rate, the new policy asks the parish to support the school based on the number of qualifying parishioners in a Catholic school. Parish financial support no longer reduces the tuition of the family, but goes directly to the school to help with tuition assistance for families in need. THIS IS A CHANGE OF FOCUS. The parish pays the school between \$200 and 250 per year for each student who meets the following criteria:

- a. Child must be baptized
- b. Family must be registered in the parish
- c. Family, including the child, must attend Mass regularly
- d. Family must support the parish in service and / or financial donations

The pastor may ask to interview a family in order to determine their status with reference to the criteria,. Parents are not to be asked to reimburse the parish for the amount of the support nor should approval for parishioner status be based on their contribution to the parish.

Ten percent of the parish support will be put in a diocesan fund and awarded to the schools most in need of offering tuition assistance to families.

The decision to move to Cost-Based Tuition / Need-Based Tuition Aid did not change the need for parish support for the Catholic schools. It did change the method of subsidy to the individual family. The new and current policy still provides the school the financial means to continue to grant tuition aid to individual families while the parishes give support to the schools.

In summary:

1. The parishes that have students in Catholic schools pay a small fee each year for parishioners who meet the criteria to support the needs of the Catholic Schools.
2. ALL clergy and parishioners are asked to support the Catholic schools by
 - a. encouraging families to enroll their children in Catholic schools,
 - b. speaking positively about our schools,
 - c. offering time and talent by volunteering, and
 - d. praying for the success of our schools.

The Catholic schools in Utah and across the nation depend on the support of all Catholics. Parish support is one way this is done in the Diocese of Salt Lake City.

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