

Exciting News for many of our Bishop Chatard families - You may benefit from the recent Indiana school choice legislation!

The income qualifications for receiving an Indiana Choice Scholarship (voucher) have expanded. Starting with the 2021-22 school year, your student(s) may qualify if you meet the eligibility guidelines below.

2021-2022 School Year Income Eligibility Based on Household Size

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	INCOME ELIGIBILITY
2	\$96,681
3	\$121,878
4	\$147,075
5	\$172,272
6	\$197,469
7	\$222,666
8	\$247,863
9	\$273,060
10	\$298,257

How do I know if we earn less than Income Eligibility?

The Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on your 2020 tax return is the key. While there are a few exceptions or potential add backs to this number, if your AGI is lower than the number listed in the Income Eligibility number for your household size, you will qualify for an Indiana Choice Scholarship!

How much is the financial award worth, if we qualify?

Here are the current Choice Scholarship amounts within our most populated townships. These amounts are based on 90% of the amount the state pays toward the cost of educating a student within the specific township or district.

TOWNSHIP	CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT	TOWNSHIP	CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT
Indpls Public Schools	\$6,534	Lawrence Township	\$5,924
Washington Township	\$5,826	Pike Township	\$5,896

By way of example, if you are a family of 5 with an Adjusted Gross Income of \$165,000 and live in Indianapolis Public Schools District, your voucher award would be \$6,534 towards Bishop Chatard

tuition. A family of 4 with an AGI of \$145,000 living in Washington Township would qualify for \$5,826.

More good news - all families who qualify for a voucher will also qualify for a minimum \$500 award under the Tax Credit Scholarship Program. More details about a Tax Credit Scholarship are available on Bishop Chatard's website or upon request.

What if I already get a "smaller" voucher (50% or 70%)?

Great news! The tiered system has been phased out. Your Choice Scholarship will increase to the highest (90%) Choice Scholarship amount, listed above!

Is there a catch?

Well, sort of ... there are certain 'pathways' (criteria that must be met), outside of the income qualifications listed above, in order for you to qualify for a Choice Scholarship. What that means is you must qualify both via income/household size as well as an eligibility pathway. In most cases for our high school students, it could take up to a year to earn an eligibility pathway.

Who needs to file the paperwork?

The Choice Scholarship follows the student. One parent from the qualifying household (married), or individually qualifying parent (if divorced, separated, head of household, legal guardianship), will need to endorse the paperwork to receive the Choice Scholarship.

I think that I qualify. What do I do now?

Bishop Chatard will analyze and discuss with you your individual pathway and timing of your Indiana Choice Scholarship eligibility.

Step 1: If you believe you will now qualify for an award based on the income above, please fill out this <https://forms.gle/y8zKo3oDwdXGMjFp6>. Based on that information, we correspond with you and move to the second and third steps.

Step 2: Be prepared to submit to Bishop Chatard a copy of your tax return (The school will require, at minimum, the first two pages of your Federal return).

Step 3: You will receive paperwork to sign/verify. This will be done digitally and only take minutes to complete.

Questions?

Send an email to finaid@bishopchatard.org. If you prefer to talk to someone, please make sure to check 'YES' to that question when you complete the form linked above and we will schedule a call with you. It may take a couple of weeks for a school representative to contact you. The BCHS Business Office appreciates your patience as we process the expanded number of inquiries and applications that Indiana's School Choice expansion generates.