



Office for Schools

MEMORANDUM

To: School Pastors and Principals
From: John Galvan
Director, Office for Schools
Re: Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program
Date: December 12, 2019

Beginning the 2020-2021 school year, the Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program (formerly Bishop Flores Scholars) will move from a *recruitment* to a *retention* program. This means that the program will no longer be serving new families, but rather, continue to support current awarded families. Factors leading to this decision center on impact and sustainability. The 2019-2020 program saw nearly \$9,000,000.00 in actual need identified from applicant families. 870 awards were distributed across the diocese totaling approximately \$400,000.00. Average awards were \$500.00 per student. Institutional/operational support to schools also continues to increase.

All returning Catholic school families should continue to apply for financial aid through TADS in order to verify need for the next school year. The application window will remain the same as years' past, accepting applications from January 2 through February 28, 2020.

In order to encourage the use of a Financial Aid platform for new families after February 28, our office has made an arrangement to cover the administrative costs of TADS to facilitate these applications (i.e., saving administrative cost of another program and additional application fees for families). Look for more details on this program update in the coming weeks.

Our office budget will continue to include a limited amount of funds to support distressed schools on an as-needed basis.

Please direct any questions you may have to either John Galvan at jgalvan@sdatholic.org or Lisa Allen, Diocesan Schools Business Manager, at lallen@sdatholicervices.org.