



# Education Savings Accounts (ESAs)

Families may be able to obtain ESAs of \$7,300 per child to enroll them in private schools for Kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade for next school year.



no more than \$43,966



no more than \$55,458



no more than \$66,950



no more than \$78,442

1. Need to show your tax documents 1040 / W2s or show that you qualify for TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
2. You have to live in Shelby [Memphis] County and be within Shelby County School System attendance zones.
3. Your children have to be in public school this year (Magnet or Charter are public too) or be entering Kindergarten next year.

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Memphis only have approximately 400 open seats. Next fall there will be 5000 ESAs available between Shelby and Davidson counties.

Catholic schools tend to be among the least expensive of all private schools in Shelby County, so there will be great competition for the open seats available among non-Catholics as well. Catholics should request these seats early or they will be filled with non-Catholics.

## How to apply?

- a. Learn about the Catholic schools to know your options.
- b. Visit: [www.cdom.org/schools](http://www.cdom.org/schools)
- c. In the section for "Catholic Schools" choose "Find a Catholic School"
- d. From here you can find the website of each Catholic school.
2. Contact the office of the school to ask for a tour
  - a. Tell them you are going to ask for the Educational Savings Account of the State of Tennessee.
  - b. Tell them how many children they have, in which grades and in which school now.
  - c. It is very important that you bring your children to visit the school, since the school wants to meet your whole family and see if your children will do well in school. It is also important that children see what school is like.
3. If you like the school, ask for the application to request admission. Ask for help to fill it out, especially if it is on the computer.
4. Also ask for help in filling out the FACTS application for financial assistance on the computer in case the TN scholarship is not enough. Your family is responsible for any costs above the ESA.
5. Apply for the ESA of the TN when applications are available - probably in February.
6. If you need help -- Ask for help from the school
7. Be patient and persevere. The process is long, but worth it.