

# Saint Stephen Catholic School

## Tuition Assistance 2023-24

Catholic school tuition can be made affordable through scholarships and financial aid. Please see below for more information on state scholarships. If your child does not qualify for a state scholarship, other options are available.

St. Stephen tuition assistance (Heart to Heart) and Diocesan Tuition Assistance (CSTAG) may be available for families who have difficulty meeting the cost of a Catholic education and do not qualify for a state scholarship. Applications are submitted through FACTS, and decisions are based on FACTS' recommendations. Families who do not qualify for Tuition Assistance may write an appeal letter to the Financial Aid committee explaining any special circumstances to be considered. Tuition Assistance is available for students in grades Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Tuition Assistance does not cover the registration and device fee. Mass attendance is verified through the use of church envelopes. Families must attend Mass consistently and regularly (at least 75% of the time) for at least three consecutive months before an initial request for financial aid. Continued proof of Mass attendance is required while enrolled at St. Stephen Catholic School. **If you are currently receiving Tuition Assistance, you must submit a new application each year.**

**Heart to Heart and CSTAG** applications are made with the same application online through FACTS Grant and Aid. The deadline to complete this application is **March 31, 2023**. A link to FACTS Tuition Management & Grant and Aid is on the school website, <https://www.sscsfl.org/> under Parents Links or go to <https://factsmgt.com/financial-management/grant-and-aid-assessment/> All supporting documentation must be submitted for the application to be complete. No application will be considered without all paperwork, including IRS Federal 1040 U.S. Income Tax Return, W-2 Wage & Tax Statements, any other supporting documentation for household income, and the FACTS application fee. The Financial Aid Committee will review the FACTS application, and families will be notified of Tuition Assistance awards. If your child is a recipient of a Florida Tax Credit or Family Empowerment Scholarship, they are not eligible for the Diocesan Tuition Assistance (CSTAG) or Heart to Heart.

Families receiving the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship or Family Empowerment Scholarship (Step Up for Students or AAA Foundation) do not need to complete a FACTS application because they are not eligible. Please check each scholarship's website for requirements and deadlines (see more information below).

### Tuition Assistance and Scholarship families are responsible for the following fees:

|                                    |   |                 |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| <b>Registration Fee</b>            | <i>Non-refundable and charged through FACTS</i>   | <b>\$300.00</b> |
| <b>New Family Registration Fee</b> | <i>Non-refundable fee applies to new families, due at time of registration</i>                | <b>\$350.00</b> |
| <b>1:1 Device Fee</b>              | <i>All 6<sup>th</sup> and returning 7<sup>th</sup> grade students (due September 1, 2023)</i> | <b>\$135.00</b> |
|                                    | <i>All returning 8<sup>th</sup> grade students (due September 1, 2023)</i>                    | <b>\$120.00</b> |
|                                    | <i>7<sup>th</sup> grade students new to the school (due September 1, 2023)</i>                | <b>\$270.00</b> |
|                                    | <i>8<sup>th</sup> grade students new to the school (due September 1, 2023)</i>                | <b>\$405.00</b> |

**If you have any questions, please contact Gail Leung at [gleung@sscsfl.org](mailto:gleung@sscsfl.org)  
Or 813-741-9203, ext. 1208**

# State Scholarship Programs

Please check the websites listed below for more information regarding guidelines and applications for the 2023-24 school year.

## **Florida Tax Credit Scholarship**

- Income-based scholarship
- Administered through Step Up for Students [www.stepupforstudents.org/for-parents](http://www.stepupforstudents.org/for-parents)

## **Family Empowerment Scholarship – Equal Opportunities**

- Similar to the Florida Tax Credit scholarship with higher allowable income levels  
<http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/k-12-scholarship-programs/fes/>

## **Family Empowerment Scholarship – Unique Abilities (formerly known as Gardiner and McKay)**

- Provides scholarships to students with specific disabilities and is administered through Step Up for Students and AAA. For requirements, visit: <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/k-12-scholarship-programs/fes/>