

Good Afternoon,

I hope that you and your family are having a wonderful summer! There have been some exciting changes to the EdChoice program that I would like to share. The Office of Catholic Schools has prepared the attached documents to outline these changes.

### **What does this scholarship opportunity mean for my student and family?**

Due to the new guidelines, all families who may not have been eligible due to their residence or income can apply for a scholarship. Families would be eligible to receive either the full scholarship amount of \$8,407 if their income is at or below the 450% level or a lesser amount on a sliding scale with the minimum amount being \$950. Please see the attached “**2023 Universal EdChoice**” document for program and income details along with the “**EdChoice Empowering Parents**” document.

The new income chart can be viewed at the link below.

[Catholic Diocese - Income Chart](#)

### **How do I apply for this scholarship?**

Complete **Part A and B** below. Part A paperwork goes to Bishop Hartley and parents can complete Part B online.

**Part A: REQUEST PAPERWORK (3 items needed)** – RETURN TO LYNN MALONE AT BISHOP HARTLEY.

*Request Documents below can be emailed to [lmalone@cdeducation.org](mailto:lmalone@cdeducation.org) or dropped off at the main office. Our office will be open daily beginning on August 1<sup>st</sup>.*

1. 2023-2024 REQUEST FORM – 2 pages completed.
2. Entire copy of your most current Utility Bill. Must show matching Mailing and Service address and cannot be over 60 days old.
3. Copy of student’s Birth Certificate.

**Part B: SCHOLARSHIP INCOME VERIFICATION** – CAN BE COMPLETED ONLINE (processed faster) or MAILED TO the EDCHOICE OFFICE (can take several months for processing).

The online system is available for families to enter and submit their income information electronically to the Scholarship office for verification of eligibility and/or low-income status. The secure application will allow parents unlimited access to track their income application status to completion. The system will also update parents via email when the income application review is complete or if a correction is needed. Submitting income online will also allow for a quicker turn-around time in the review process.

**New Income Verification Online Applicants:**

Follow instructions in the attached "**Quick-Guide-Income-Verification -Portal**" document. When accessing the system, please use a desktop or laptop computer as the system is not easily accessible on a mobile device.

The deadline to request scholarships for this academic year and receive the entire amount for which the family qualifies is October 14, 2023. Any application received after this date will be awarded at a prorated amount by the Department of Education and Workforce. We encourage our families to apply now to avoid any delays.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you and I look forward to working with your family to get your application submitted! We are excited for the opportunities that these changes can provide for your family!

Take care and enjoy the rest of summer break!

Lynn