



# Tuition Assistance

## Understanding Your Options



### TUITION

#### Tuition may be paid in one of three ways.

- One lump sum due July 1
- Two payments, one at the beginning of each semester due July 1 and December 1
- 11 monthly payments, beginning June 1

### VALLEY CHRISTIAN IN-HOUSE FINANCIAL AID

Need-based distribution

Apply on-line through [FACTS](http://online.factsmgt.com). ( [online.factsmgt.com](http://online.factsmgt.com) )

Application fee is \$32.00

FACTS ID# 25408

- Application process opens January 1.
- After March 31, all applications will be considered on a first come, first served basis with priority given to new, in-coming families.
- Families who have finalized completed applications by March 31 will be notified of award status by June 1.
- Most recently filed tax returns are required.
- Awards will be disbursed until funds are depleted.
- Awards are applied to tuition accounts for the upcoming school year and are applied across each month's tuition.

### SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION (STO)

- An STO is a non-profit organization that accepts tax credit donations and distributes them as tuition scholarships.
- Scholarship awards are sent to the school directly in the name of your student.
- Financial circumstances must be considered for all scholarship awards.
  - Each STO can take into consideration other factors when making awards, such as:
    - Donors may recommend your student to be considered for the award. (Not all STOs allow this)
    - Income
    - Narrative
    - Special Circumstances Letter
- EACH STO has its own procedures/applications/due dates/award periods.
- Typically, applications are submitted **once a year** and remain valid for that current school year. (A new application is required each year)
- Students may receive multiple scholarship awards from more than one STO.

### STO FAQs

- The state prohibits recommending tax dollars for taxpayers' own dependents.
- The law also does not tolerate purposeful recommendation "swapping" between tax payers.
- A school tuition organization cannot award, restrict or reserve scholarships solely on the basis of a donor's recommendation.
- An STO considers it a privilege to take donor recommendations into consideration.
- Demanding a designation as a condition of a donation is not a charitable act; it disqualifies any sort of credit or deduction the tax payer would want to claim. It would also jeopardize the 501(C)(3) status of the charitable organization, since no goods or services can be promised in return for a charitable gift.
- The typical procedure followed when applying for a scholarship is to submit an application by the required deadline, then wait to see if your student received an award or not.
- ***EACH PARENT/FAMILY SEEKING DONATIONS FOR THEIR CHILDREN SHOULD ALSO BE A DONOR.***

There are two types of tax credits—**Corporate** and **Individual**.

**INDIVIDUAL TAX CREDIT PROGRAM**

- Any Arizona taxpayer may donate and receive a **dollar-for-dollar credit** based on their state tax liability. We encourage our families to also take advantage of this tax credit program and recommend VCS for their tax credit donation.
- Donors may recommend a specific student.
- Your tax credit donation may also be considered a charitable deduction on your Federal Tax return.
- There are two components to the Individual Tax Credit; Original and Overflow Plus/Switcher.

**ORIGINAL TAX CREDIT**

Any taxpayer may donate at any time.  
 Arizona students enrolled in a private (K-12) school qualify to receive this scholarship.

Donor Maximums		
	SINGLE	MARRIED
2018 <b>Original</b>	\$555.00	\$1110.00
2018 <b>Overflow</b>	\$552.00	\$1103.00
2018 <b>TOTAL</b>	\$1107.00	\$2213.00

**OVERFLOW (PLUS OR SWITCHER) TAX CREDIT**

- Students meeting ONE of the following are eligible for this scholarship:
  - Students who attended an Arizona public or charter school for at least one semester in the current school year or in the prior school year, and transferred to a private school
  - OR**
  - Students enrolled in Kindergarten
  - OR**
  - Pre-K students with a disability (attending a private school that offers specific services for that disability)
  - OR**
  - Students who are dependents of a member of the US Armed Forces who is stationed in Arizona pursuant to military orders
  - OR**
  - Students who have already received a scholarship through the PLUS program or through the Corporate Tax Credit Program in a prior year and continue in private school since receiving the award.

**CORPORATE TAX CREDIT PROGRAM**

- Low income and Lexie’s Law/Disabled Displaced scholarships are available.
- Arizona corporations filing taxes as S Corps or C Corps may donate.
  - \* A cap for the corporate donations exists.
- Donations may be recommended for a school.
- Donations may NOT be recommended for a specific student.
- During 2018-19, the Corporate Low Income award limit per student per STO will be \$6,700 for high school and \$5,400 for Pre-K through 8th.

2018 Arizona Corporate Scholarship Income Limits	
Household Size	Annual Gross Income Maximums for AZ Low-Income Corporate Tax Credit Scholarships
1	\$41,275
2	\$55,581
3	\$69,887
4	\$84,194
5	\$98,500
6	\$112,806
7	\$127,112
8	\$141,418
Each Additional Person	+ \$14,306

Scholarships are for eligible students who:

- 1) Fall within the state mandated income limit (see chart). Each year the figures are updated in the spring for the following year.
- AND**
- 2) Are either:
  - Transferring from a public/charter school having attended 1 full semester or more of the previous school year or current year

**OR**

Dependent of active duty military stationed in Arizona on orders

**OR**

Received a Corporate or Individual award in a prior school year

### **Lexie's Law – (Disabled/Displaced):**

- Disabled - These are scholarships for disabled students who have received an IEP or 504 Plan issued by an Arizona public school.
- Displaced – These are scholarships for students who are or have been placed in the Arizona Foster Care System at any time before the student graduated from high school.

### **EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT (ESA)**

ESA is an account administered by Arizona Department of Education that is funded by state tax dollars to provide educational options for qualified Arizona students. By opting out of the public school system, parents can seek a range of alternative educational services, such as private school or home-based education, to tailor an individualized educational plan that is best for their child.

Empowerment Scholarship Account - [www.azed.gov/esa](http://www.azed.gov/esa)

- Families who accept ESA scholarships cannot receive and use any tax credit dollars.
- *ESA may also apply to students who have an active military parent, have been a ward of the court, reside on a Native American Reservation, or attended a D or F rated school. For more information, visit [www.azed.gov/esa](http://www.azed.gov/esa)*

## **STO OPTIONS**

### **INDIVIDUAL ONLY:**

ACSTO – [www.acsto.org](http://www.acsto.org) (*Partners with VCS*)

VCS Coordinator – Jamie Dinsmore [www.acsto.org](http://www.acsto.org)

- Apply online, or download an application from the ACSTO website.
- Applications for the new school year are available February 3rd.
- Families with students not currently attending VCS, but seeking donations for the up-coming school year, should apply by March 31 in order to qualify for earliest possible award.
- **Award periods: Spring (can be applied to current or future school year), Summer, Fall, Winter**
- No income disqualifiers.

### **CORPORATE ONLY:** (*must be eligible*)

AZ Leadership Foundation – [www.arizonaleader.org](http://www.arizonaleader.org)

- Electronic (scanned) applications/confirmation emailed
- Applications for the 2019-2020 school year will be available in April of 2019 and will be due in June of 2019. Check the website for specific deadline dates.
- Arizona Leadership Foundation awards scholarships based on:  
Qualifying for financial need; Prior academic achievement; Extracurricular activities that build lifelong leadership skills;  
Must have met second qualifier.
- **Award period late August**

### **BOTH CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL**

Arizona Private Education Scholarship Fund (APESF) - [www.apesf.org](http://www.apesf.org)

- Offer original, overflow, low-income, and disabled/displaced scholarships.
- Applications are available beginning in March for next school year.
- Applications are due by February of current school year.
- **Awards are made monthly.**

Arizona School Choice Trust – [www.asct.org](http://www.asct.org)

- Online application only - processing fee charged

*\*Only STO who charges a processing fee*

- ASCT awards scholarships based on:
  - 1) income guidelines, need-based only
  - 2) first-come, first served
- **Awards determined in June-July, and distributions split into payments made September, January and April (possibly twice a year, at each semester)**

Arizona Tax Credit – [www.AzTxCr.org](http://www.AzTxCr.org)

- Offer original, overflow, and corporate scholarships.
- Applications are made available on March 16 for the next school year.
- Applications are accepted through March 1 of current school year.
- **Processes awards two times per month.**

Institute for Better Education - [www.ibescholarships.org](http://www.ibescholarships.org)

- Offer original, overflow, corporate, and disabled/displaced scholarships.
- Applications for the new school year are available in January. Multiple children can be included in one application.
- The first round of application assessment is typically around April 15.
- **First round of financial aid scholarships are typically awarded by early June.**

School Choice Arizona - [www.schoolchoicearizona.org](http://www.schoolchoicearizona.org)

- A sister organization to ACSTO.
- Offers original, overflow, low-income corporate, and disabled/displaced scholarships.
- Applications are made available on March 1st each year.
- Applications can be submitted online and due dates differ depending on the type of scholarship.
- **Please visit their website for the timeline for application deadlines and award distribution.**

Tuition Organization for Private Schools (TOPS) - [www.topsforkids.com](http://www.topsforkids.com)

- Offer original, PLUS/Switcher, corporate low-income, and disabled/displaced scholarships.
- Application process opens in May and can be submitted online.
- **The application process is open year-round, but should be submitted before the 15th of the month before the award.**

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Alumni, Pastoral (full-time) and full-time Christian School Teacher (reciprocity) discounts available.  
Contact Kristi Majercak (480) 705-8888 for more information.

VALLEY CHRISTIAN  SCHOOLS

**Visit us online for additional information**  
**[vchsaz.org/tuition](http://vchsaz.org/tuition)**