

AFFORDING CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Diocese of Charlotte Catholic Schools



WELCOME

- Debbie Mixer
 - Assistant Superintendent
- Mary Lenes
 - Director of School Operations

PRAYER FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

O Christ, our Teacher,

You invite Your faithful people to make disciples in Your name and to announce good news to the poor. We thank You for the gift of Catholic schools, where

The message of Your life, death, and resurrection is proclaimed, Christian community is experienced,
Service to our brothers and sisters is modeled,
And worship of You is cultivated.

Increase our zeal for ensuring that all children and families can benefit from a high quality Catholic education, and that Catholic schools grow in their ability to nurture the soul of our nation.

We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady, Mother of Catholic Schools. Amen.

(University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education)

AGENDA

- Prayer
- Tuition Statistics
- Tuition Assistance
 - State Funded
 - School/Parish Funded
- Personal Financial Choice (529 Plan)
- Questions & Answers

AVERAGE TUITION & PER PUPIL EXPENDITURE

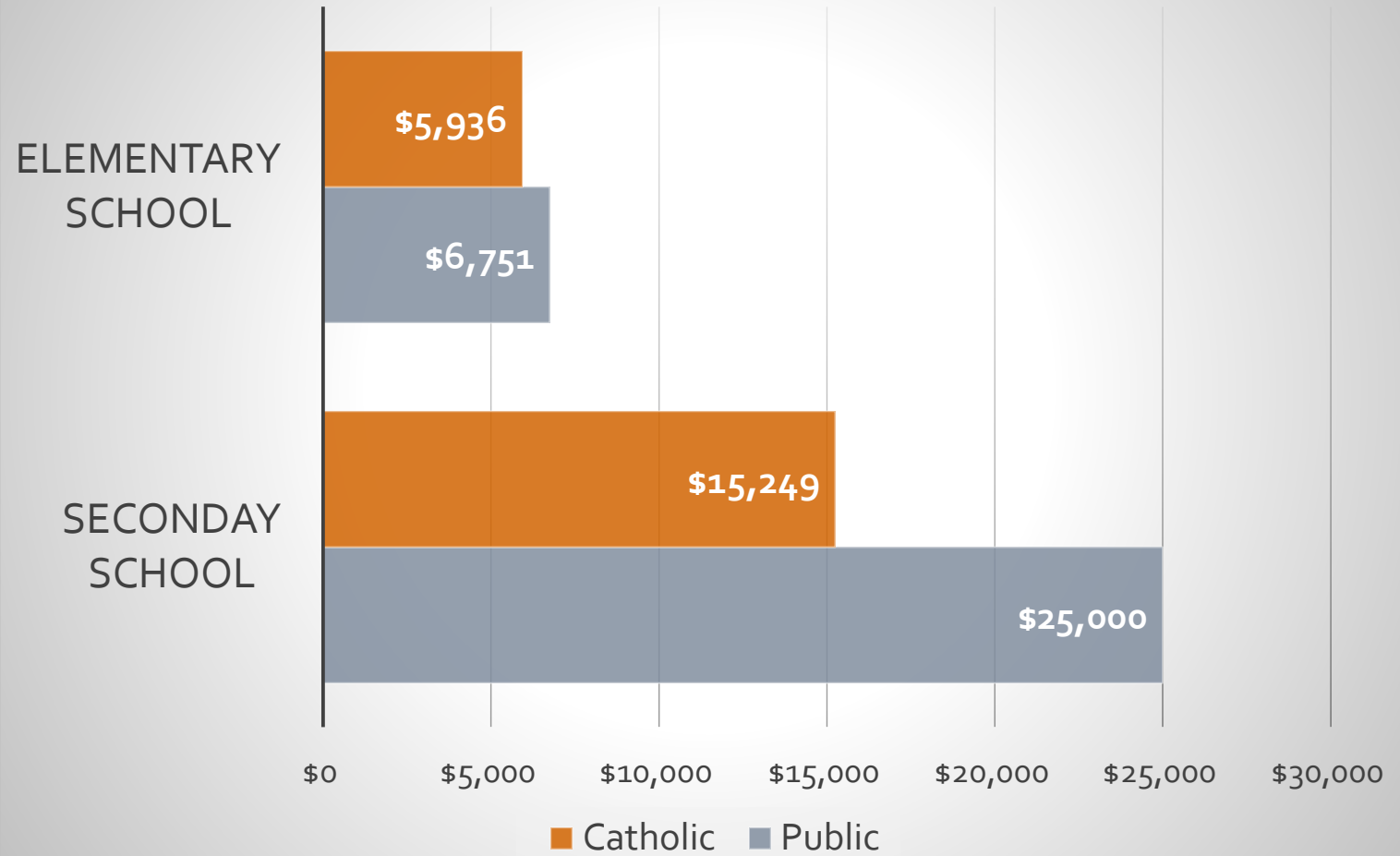
- Catholic Elementary Schools (K – 8th)
 - Mean Parish School Tuition: \$4,841
 - Per Pupil Expenditure: \$5,936
- Catholic Secondary Schools (9th – 12th)
 - Mean Parish School Tuition: \$11,239
 - Per Pupil Expenditure: \$15,249



(NCEA 17-18 Annual Statistical Report)

CATHOLIC VS. PUBLIC SCHOOL

United States Per Pupil Expenditure



(NCEA 17-18 Annual Statistical Report)

TUITION ASSISTANCE

- State Funded Programs
 - North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA)
- School/Parish Funded Tuition Assistance



NCSEAA

- North Carolina offers three programs that expand school choice for eligible students in kindergarten through 12th grade.
 1. Opportunity Scholarship
 2. Disabilities Grant
 3. Education Savings Account
- These programs can cover tuition and required fees at a participating nonpublic school. In addition, the Disabilities Grant and Education Savings Account can cover certain other expenses related to educating a child with a disability.

OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

- The Opportunity Scholarship Program expands school choice in North Carolina through scholarship grants for eligible children in Kindergarten through 12th grade.
- This program provides funding of up to **\$4,200** per year for eligible children who choose to attend a participating nonpublic school.

DISABILITIES GRANT

- The Disabilities Grant Program is a program for eligible students with disabilities in Kindergarten through 12th grade to provide an option for parents to pay tuition, fees, and some other expenses at a participating school.
- This program provides funding of up to **\$8,000** per year for eligible children who choose to attend a participating nonpublic school.

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT

- Expands school choice for eligible students with disabilities in kindergarten through 12th grade.
 - For students attending a registered nonpublic school
 - For tuition and required fees and certain other expenses related to educating a child with a disability
 - Allows parents quarterly access to funds on a debit card (subject to program requirements)
- This program currently provides funding of up to **\$9,000** per year for eligible children who choose to attend a participating nonpublic school.

REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for any of the programs, a student must meet all of the following requirements:

- Be a resident of NC
- Be 5 on or before August 31 of the upcoming school year
- Be younger than 22 as of the date the upcoming school year begins
- Not have a high school diploma
- Apply and enroll to an eligible school
- Has not enrolled in a postsecondary institution (college or university) as a full-time student taking at least 12 hours of credit

ELIGIBILITY

- Each program has specific additional requirements for eligibility.
- For example, the Disabilities Grant and Education Savings Account require a documented IEP.
- For more information and to apply, please visit <http://ncseaa.edu/K-12Grants.htm>

SCHOOL/ PARISH TUITION ASSISTANCE

- Please visit the individual school's website for more information about school/parish specific tuition assistance.
- <https://charlottediocese.org/schools-office/>

PERSONAL FINANCIAL CHOICE

529 Plan

- Named for their section of the U.S. tax code, 529s are investment accounts for education expenses.
- There are two types – prepaid tuition plans or investment/savings plans. We will only be discussing the savings accounts.
- While approved in the U.S. federal tax code, 529 programs are created and managed by states. Each state runs the program differently and offers different incentives for opening an account.
- Originally created only for higher education expenses, beginning in 2018, 529 account funds may be used for K-12 tuition.

529 PLAN

Benefits

- Federal Taxes
 - Funds in a 529 account **grow tax-free** as long as they are used for an allowable education expense.
 - Up to \$10,000 per beneficiary may be used for K-12 tuition each year.
 - Can pre-fund up to 5 years' worth of gift tax allowance (\$75,000).
- State Taxes
 - MOST states recognize K-12 tuition costs as QHEE. In those states, funds grow tax-free if withdrawn for K-12 tuition.
 - Many states also offer a deduction or credit on contributions to a 529 account. These can be worth hundreds of dollars a year, depending on the limit and state tax rate.

529 PLAN

In North Carolina:

- State income tax, K-12 tuition allowed, no deduction:
 - Invest with 529 account, use growth for education expenses
 - Exempt from federal taxation on investment growth
 - No state income taxes

(NCEA and Catholic Education Partners)

Q&A

- Debbie Mixer
 - Assistant Superintendent
 - dlmixer@charlottediocese.org
- Mary Lenes
 - Director of School Operations
 - mslenes@charlottediocese.org
- Additional Resources:
 - NCSEAA: <http://ncseaa.edu/K-12Grants>
 - NCEA: <https://www.ncea.org/>