



# Desert Christian Schools

## Tuition Assistance Program

Tax Credit Scholarships, Empowerment Scholarship Accounts,  
Awards & DCS Financial Aid

2018 - 2019 SCHOOL YEAR

# Tuition Assistance Program

Desert Christian Schools' Tuition Assistance Program is a needs-based program. This means that completion of the requirements outlined below does not guarantee the awarding of scholarships, or Financial Aid. All awards (other than the Volunteer Benefit) are based on the verification of need, and are dependent on the current financial resources available. Financial Aid covers only tuition, fees, books, and education equipment. It does not apply to lunches or After Care. We encourage all who are in genuine need to apply.



# TUITION ASSISTANCE CATEGORIES



STATE  
SCHOLARSHIPS



VOLUNTEER  
BENEFIT



DCS AWARDS &  
FINANCIAL AID

# State Scholarships

## ARIZONA TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

State tax credit scholarships are awarded through Arizona state-authorized School Tuition Organizations (STOs). They are funded by taxpayer donations.

For more information visit:

<https://www.ibescholarships.org/> OR <http://acsto.org/>.

For a complete list of STO's in Arizona go to:

[www.azdor.gov/taxcredits](http://www.azdor.gov/taxcredits).

DCS is committed to helping families with this process. We offer free regular tax credit workshops throughout the school year.

## EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS

ESAs are awarded through the AZ Department of Education for families in the following categories:

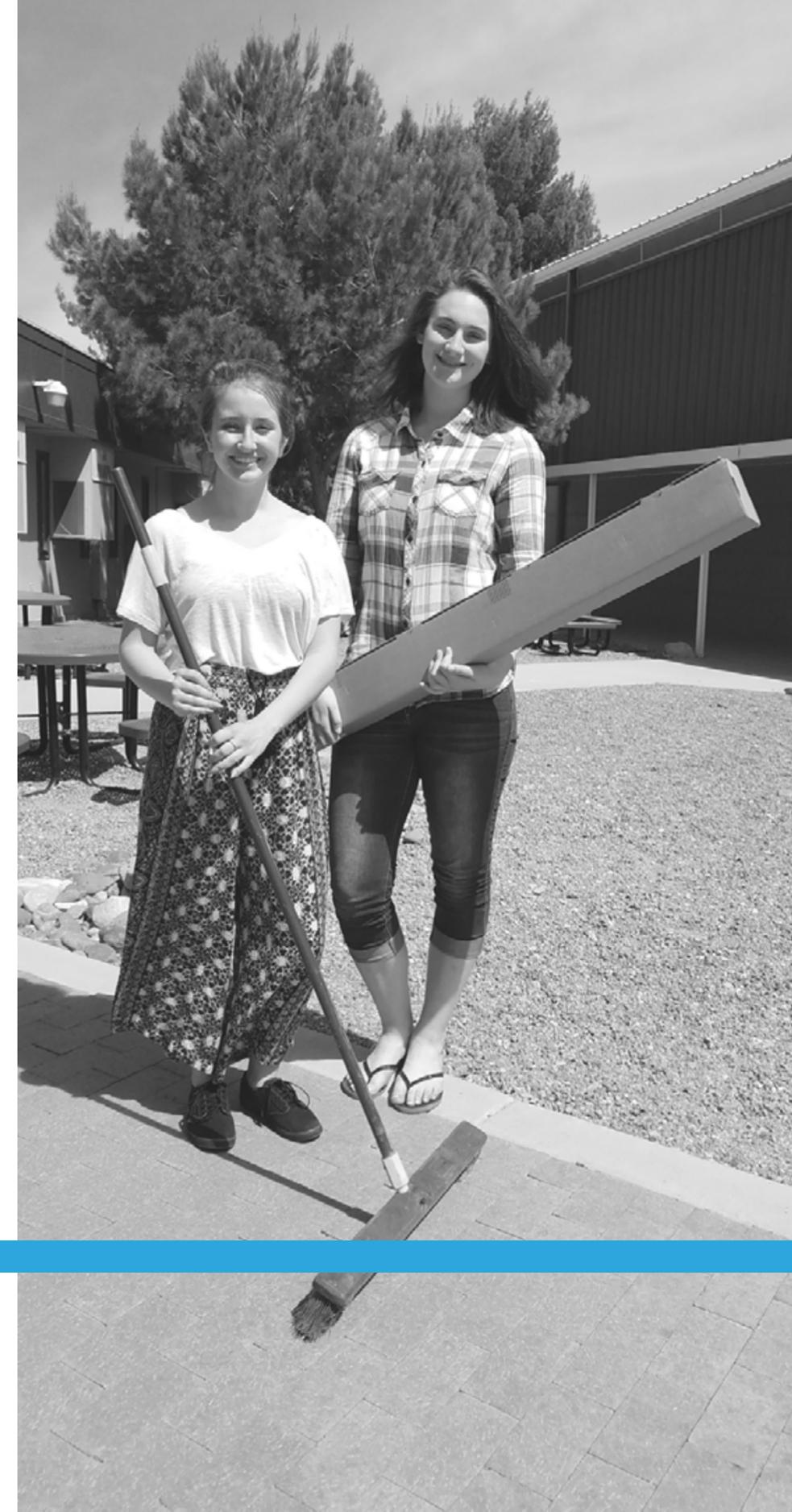
- Special Needs
- Active Military
- Foster care/Adopted
- Foster Care/Planned Adoption
- Currently attending D or F ranked public school
- Reside on an Indian Reservation
- A Sibling with an ESA
- Legally Blind/Hard of Hearing.

**To apply visit:** <https://esa.azed.gov/ESA/OnlineApplication>.

**NOTE:** Students awarded ESAs do not qualify for the AZ Tax-Credit Scholarships.

# Volunteer Benefit

Families may receive an award up to 5% off a single child's tuition for validated volunteer hours provided to DCS throughout the year. Be advised, recipients may be required to declare this benefit as taxable income. Please consult your financial advisor.



# DCS Awards

Awards available to families who complete the \*CFS Tuition Assistance application, and are awarded assistance upon their current need, are as follows:

## **MULTI-CHILD DISCOUNT**

Families that have two or more children enrolled, and *qualify for financial assistance*, may receive up to a \$200/year award per child.

## **MILITARY DISCOUNT**

Families who are actively employed by the U.S. military, and *qualify for financial assistance*, may receive up to a 10% award.

## **MINISTRY/PASTORAL DISCOUNT**

Families employed in full-time ministry (church or parachurch non-profit Christian organizations), and *qualify for financial assistance*, may receive up to a 50% award.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE DISCOUNT**

Families employed by schools, fire departments, or law enforcement, and *qualify for financial assistance*, may receive up to a 10% award.

\*In order to assure confidentiality and most reliable accuracy in determining the level of assistance, DCS partners with Confidential Financial Services (CFS), a third-party tuition aid verification service. This partnership ensures the greatest level of assistance to those in need.

# DCS Financial Aid

If a family has needs beyond what the above awards provide, there may be additional funding available. The DCS community generously donates to annual fundraising efforts specifically designated for the DCS Financial Aid Fund. Distribution of those funds is dependent upon the amount available for the current school year. Families with exceptional financial need may receive up to 50% annual tuition assistance. Aid is awarded for the current school year only.

Financial Aid applications received by the upcoming school year deadline will be given first priority. However, as needs arise, applications are accepted year-round and will be awarded at the discretion of the Financial Aid Committee with regard to the amount of funds available.



# How to Secure DCS Awards & Financial Aid

## STEP ONE

**(K-12 Only. PS Skip to Step Two)**

DCS families applying for financial aid must provide evidence that Arizona Tax-Credit or Empowerment Scholarship Account opportunities have been maximized for children entering K-12. Submit to the Headmaster's Office copies of applications to at least two State Tuition Organizations, along with evidence of requesting tax-credit donations by family members and friends (e.g. copies of letters). ESA applicants are to provide a copy of their application to the AZ Department of Education.

## STEP TWO

Complete the confidential online Tuition Assistance Application at <https://www.cfslogin.com>, using DCS school number **11136**. A \$30 application fee is required (waivers may be available at the discretion of the Headmaster). If the applicant is awarded financial aid, then a \$30 credit will be applied to their school account.

## STEP THREE

Within 3-5 days of completing the online application, CFS will provide the Headmaster's Office a confidential FACT Report (Family Anticipated Contribution Total) from which the level of tuition aid will be determined.

## STEP FOUR

The Headmaster's Office will communicate to the applicant the level of financial aid awarded within 7 to 10 days from the receipt of the FACT report

# Important Additional DCS Awards & Financial Aid Requirements

Note that all recipients of DCS Financial Aid must abide by the following requirements:

- Recipients must keep their school account current, including tuition, fees, and services; without accruing any late fee penalties.
- Students benefiting from DCS Awards & Financial Aid must maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.0 (i.e., a “C” grade or higher).
- Students benefiting from DCS Awards & Financial Aid must meet all expectations as outlined in the Student Conduct section of the DCS Family Handbook (DCS Family Handbook, Section “Student Conduct”, page 84).

Failure to comply with the above requirements may result in the forfeiture of tuition aid provided and the recipient family will be responsible for payment of the full tuition amount.