



**Information for Parents and Guardians
School Year 2015-16 Scholarship Application**

Welcome to GRACE Scholars. GRACE Scholars is a Georgia student scholarship organization (SSO) serving Catholic school students in the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Diocese of Savannah through 36 participating Catholic schools. **All GRACE awards are made on the basis of financial need.**

- 1. How do I apply?** Parents and guardians apply on behalf of their children by submitting the accompanying application form to the school of their choice. Please see the “Certification” section of the application about other required information.
- 2. Is there a deadline?** March 2 is the due date for awards announced during the spring enrollment period. Applications may be submitted after March 2 but less funding is usually available.
- 3. Are there other documents and information required in addition to the application?** Yes. Prior to applying for GRACE, families must submit an application to an outside financial aid company which will determine the student’s/family’s financial need. Additional documentation is also required and must be submitted with the application. **Parents/guardians should contact school personnel regarding documentation needed.**
- 4. How is financial need calculated?** Calculated financial need is determined by an outside company using tax returns and other information provided on the application. The financial aid company reports the calculated financial need to the school.
- 5. How are decisions made?** Each school reviews applications and makes recommendations to GRACE. The GRACE staff reviews applications for compliance and availability of funds. The GRACE executive committee makes the final decision on awards.
- 6. To whom do I direct questions about the award process?** **The school is your primary contact.** You should direct questions to the school’s principal or president or to a staff person designated by the principal/president. For your convenience, you can jot down below the school’s designated person and contact information.

Name of school

Name of contact person

Contact person telephone number

Contact person e-mail address

- 7. How will I be notified if my child is selected for a GRACE award?** GRACE Scholars generates an award letter addressed to the parent/guardian and sends it to the principal/president. Included with the letter is an acceptance letter. The schools provide award letters to parents/guardians and collect signed acceptance letters and return them to GRACE.
- 8. Will I be notified if my child is not selected?** The school is responsible for non-award notifications.
- 9. How much is the award?** The size of the annual award depends on the availability of funds. The annual award will not exceed the lesser of calculated financial need, 80% of tuition, or a state index calculated by the Georgia Department of Education. Awards cover the student’s career at the school as long as eligibility is maintained.
- 10. Is there a maximum family income?** No. Calculated financial need is determined by an outside company based on several variables including family income, number of children, and the tuition rate.
- 11. How and when are funds disbursed?** Checks are issued to the school in names of the parents/guardians in August. Schools notify the parents/guardians who are required to go the school to endorse the checks.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS: PLEASE SUBMIT THE APPLICATION TO THE SCHOOL.



Scholarship Application Form

COMPLETE ONE APPLICATION PER STUDENT. PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE CLEARLY.

For School Year: 2015-16 Grade in August 2015: Gender: Male Female

Student Name:

Catholic school applied to: City:

School attended in 2014-15: City:

Student's Address:

City, State, Zip:

Parent/Guardian Name(s): 1. Please print or type clearly 2. Please print or type clearly

Parent/guardian #1 should be the parent/guardian with the best daytime availability to go to the school to sign documents.

Telephone: E-mail:

CERTIFICATION

By my/our initial(s) and signature(s), I/we affirm and certify that the following statements are true and correct:

For all students. I/we are the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the above referenced student. This student resides with me/us in the State of Georgia. I/we have attached proof of residence which documents residency at the address given above. (Acceptable proofs of residence include a copy of a parent/guardian's Georgia driver's license or other form of government issued photo ID card, a recent utility bill, rent receipt, or voided check with address.)

For all students. I/we have submitted an application to the financial aid company used by the school to determine calculated financial need, and the school has received evidence of the financial aid application.

For students entering 2nd grade or above and transferring from a public school. The student referenced above is transferring directly from a Georgia public school. I/we have attached a copy of the student's public school transcript or latest report card as evidence of public school attendance. (Transcript or report card should show school's name and address and name of school system.)

For students entering 2nd grade or above and transferring from another non-public school. A student is exempt from the public school transfer rule and is eligible to apply for GRACE assistance if the student had been receiving SSO assistance at the previous school. I/we understand that the GRACE school will ask that GRACE Scholars request a letter of verification from an official of the SSO.

For students entering 2nd grade or above and transferring from home schooling. A student is exempt from the public school transfer rule and is eligible to apply for GRACE assistance if the student has been participating in a home school program registered with the Georgia Department of Education (DOE) for at least one year prior to receiving prior to receiving an SSO award. I/we certify that the above referenced student meets the eligibility requirements for home schooled students and have attached of the declaration of intent submitted to the DOE for the most recent school year.

Signature: Date:

Signature: Date:

For school use. Date received:

Proof of Georgia residence Calculated financial need
Proof of public school attendance or proof of previous SSO funding (2nd grade and above)
Evidence that financial aid application has been submitted