



2024-25 TUITION POLICY

How Tuition and Financial Awards are Determined

In school year 2024-25, Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School is shifting to *a new tuition model to help us hold parent’s tuition payments at the current level* using PA Tuition Tax Credit Program donations to cover increases in the cost to educate (CTE) our students.

Tuition to enroll at Our Lady of Lourdes is determined at the December School Board Meeting and is based on the total cost to educate (CTE) a student for the current school year. For the 2024-25 school year, Lourdes cost is projected to be \$9,000 per student.

There are 3 things you can do to substantially reduce your CTE tuition cost:

1. **Apply for Financial Aid** – When you enroll/re-enroll your students, apply for financial aid. And whether you qualify for financial aid or not, you will receive a Lourdes Tuition Tax Credit Award of \$4,450 for high school (9-12) leaving you a tuition cost of \$4,550 which is the current high school tuition before any other discounts and financial awards.

For grade school (K-8), a \$6,000 Lourdes Tuition Tax Credit Award will be applied to your tuition account leaving a tuition cost of \$3,000 which is the current grade school tuition before any other discounts and financial awards.

This Tuition Tax Credit Award is a discount to the full CTE for helping Lourdes qualify for a higher level of PA state tax credit funding. The more Lourdes households that qualify financially, the more financial assistance Our Lady of Lourdes qualifies for from the PA State Tuition Tax Credit Program.

To qualify for PA State Tuition Tax Credits Awards, parents’ or guardians’ income must be below \$96,676 for the first child and that income level goes up by +\$17,017 for each additional child enrolled at Lourdes per this chart:

# of Children Enrolled	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Earn This Amount or Less, You Qualify for Tuition Tax Award of \$1,000 or more</i>	\$ 96,676	\$ 113,693	\$ 130,710	\$ 147,727	\$ 164,744
<i>Increase per student</i>		+\$17,017	+\$17,017	+\$17,017	+\$17,017

Even if your total annual household income exceeds the minimum income listed on the chart, we recommend that you apply for financial aid anyway since there may be adjustments applied to your income that will allow you to qualify as a household. And either way, you will qualify for the \$4,450 (high school) and \$6,000 (grade school) Lourdes Tuition Tax Credit Award for helping us fund our CTE, and keep our tuition cost down.

2. **Donate to the PA State Tuition Tax Credit Program** – Apply to donate your PA state tax through an EITC/SPE program and receive a tax credit of 90% of the amount you donate. You can donate to *Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School* through either *ACSI/Children’s Tuition Fund for \$1,000 or more*, or *Central PA Scholarship Fund (CPSE) for donations of \$3,500 or more*. Donate to either EITC/SPE scholarship organization and you will receive a Lourdes Tuition Tax Credit Award of \$4,450 (high school) and \$6,000 (grade school). And help us fund Catholic education at Lourdes Regional.
3. **You can also do both** – If your income is over \$35,000, you can apply for financial aid *and* apply to become a PA Tuition Tax Credit donor to Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School – and one Lourdes Tuition Tax Credit Award per student of \$4,450 (high school) and \$6,000 (grade school) will be applied to your tuition account.

If you do not apply for financial aid and/or become a PA EITC/SPE tuition tax credit donor, your tuition will be the full TCE of \$9,000.

Contact our Advancement Director, Jacqueline Kerris (Jacqueline.kerris@lourdesregional.org) or School President, Tom DeAngelis (thomas.deangelis@lourdesregional.org) for more information on both these award program. Or any other questions about our new Lourdes tuition model.

Create/Login to your Simple Tuition Solutions (STS) account to Apply and Enroll

Beginning 2024-25 school year, parents/guardians must register in the Simple Tuition Solutions (STS) system 1) to apply, enroll and re-enroll students, 2) to apply for financial aid, and 3) to set up their tuition payment account. STS application and enrollment site can be accessed here:

- 1) Directly at <https://app.simpletuitionsolutions.org/register?sc=20581>,
(The school scholarship fund is #20581 when applying for financial aid)
- 2) From the www.LourdesRegional.org website at the bottom of every page

If you are *re-applying to Lourdes* and completing the financial aid application for PA state tuition tax credit award through STS, we can normally commit to keep your household tuition at the current year level if your household financial situation stays generally the same. If your income goes up or down by a large amount we will most likely need to adjust your students’ tuition awards up or down based on that change.

If you are *new to Lourdes* and applying for the first time, our goal is always to award students the amount that the STS financial assessment recommends for your current financial situation.

Whether re-enrolling or newly enrolling, you may always petition Lourdes for additional financial assistance if you have a financial situation not covered in the STS financial assessment, or your financial situation changes during the school year.

Our goal is always to keep tuition costs affordable for all families. Our ability to do that is 100% dependent upon the amount of PA State Tax Credit Program funding we receive from generous parents and other donors who apply and donate to the EITC/SPE program and direct their donations to Our Lady of Lourdes.

NOTE: Financial assessments are not done by Our Lady of Lourdes school administration, or anyone connected with Lourdes or the Harrisburg Diocese. The entire process is secured and handled by Simple Tuition Solutions using a financial assessment program similar to those used by U.S. colleges and universities.

Difficulty Paying Tuition

If you are struggling to meet the tuition obligations for your student(s), please contact either LeeAnn Smith, Tuition Administrator (leeann.smith@lourdesregional.org), or School President, Tom DeAngelis (thomas.deangelis@lourdesregional.org) as early as possible to discuss your situation.

We reserve some PA state tuition tax credit funds for unforeseen financial situations like this. Often we also have privately funded Lourdes scholarships for students meeting certain scholarship qualifications that we can award for financial hardship situations.

As a Catholic school, we consider it our witness to the generous, self-sacrificing love of Christ to assist parents/guardians during difficult financial times. It is most important to us, and we know, to you, to keep your student(s) fully involved in a school where they can encounter Christ daily.

We have financial resources to help at Lourdes if you contact us. And you may also consult with your Pastor for advice and help in dealing with your financial challenge.

As a reminder to parents/guardians of their financial responsibility, the following student activities will be withheld from students whose parents/guardians are **behind in tuition payments and after three (3) reminders have not contacted Lourdes to discuss their financial situation and arrange an adjusted tuition amount, an adjusted tuition payment schedule, or both.**

And if adjusted payments and payment schedule are in place, the payments must be current.

1. Participation in field trips withheld
2. Participation in athletics withheld
3. Online access to student grades withheld
4. Report cards withheld
5. Participation in Winter Formal and Spring Prom withheld
6. Reenrollment for next semester or next school year withheld
7. Transcripts withheld for transfer students and graduating seniors
8. Diplomas withheld for graduating seniors
9. Participation in graduation ceremonies at any grade level withheld

Delinquent Tuition Payments

If you fall behind in tuition payments, **and do not contact us after three (3) reminders of past-due tuition payments.** we are forced to conclude that you are choosing to avoid your financial responsibility.

If the past-due payments continue, and there is no contact with Lourdes, the tuition contract you agreed to when enrolling your student(s) along with your financial awards, scholarships and payment history will be presented to the Finance Committee of the Lourdes Regional School Board for further action.

Further action will include your past-due tuition account turned over to the Lourdes school attorney for collection, a collection agency, or District Justice's Office for small claims adjudication. In the case of repeated tuition delinquency, the Board reserves the right to proceed immediately to civil court to collect payments from habitual offenders.

Tuition accounts with unpaid balances after June 1st will incur a \$30 monthly penalty until the balance is paid in full.

As listed above, no student will be permitted to re-enroll at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School for a new school year until such time as his or her parents/guardians have fully paid all outstanding tuition balances, or have made payment arrangements and are current with that commitment.

Any requests for academic records by any parochial, private, or public school to which any former student is transferring will likewise be denied until such time as his or her parents/guardians have fully paid all outstanding tuition balances.

Any requests for academic records by other persons or institutions for any reason will likewise be denied until such time as his or her parents/guardian have fully paid all outstanding tuition balances.