



ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – CSAF ASSESSMENT INCREASE

Q1: What is CSAF?

CSAF stands for the Catholic Schools Assistance Fund. It has been in effect for many years as a means for parishes to provide support for Catholic schools.

Q2: How has CSAF been calculated?

CSAF is 1.5% of the parish assessable income, calculated by the Office of Parish Finance as part of the annual parish assessment calculation.

Q3: How much CSAF revenue is generated each year?

Since it is computed on assessable income it varies each year. In the 2008-09 school year it generated approximately \$1.3 million.

Q4: How have CSAF funds been distributed?

CSAF funds have been distributed on the basis of need-based grant requests from schools.

Q5: What is ISA?

ISA stands for Interparish School Assistance that currently requires parishes without their own schools to support Catholic schools attended by their parishioners. This subsidy becomes part of the school's operating budget.

As such, parishes without schools pay Archdiocesan elementary and high schools a fixed ISA amount for each of its Catholic students who are enrolled in Archdiocesan schools and whose families are parish members. (*Reference Chapter 4, Part 1 and Policy 4.3.11 in The Pastoral Handbook for more information.*)

As more fully discussed below, effective July 1, 2010, the ISA system will be terminated.

Q6: How many students qualify for ISA?

Approximately 2,000 students qualify for ISA, which should generate approximately \$2.0 million annually for archdiocesan elementary and high schools. Not all ISA commitments are collected because some parishes do not have enough resources to make their payments.

Q7: Why is ISA being replaced by a larger CSAF assessment?

ISA discourages parishes from sending students to Catholic schools; it unfairly impacts poorer schools and parishes; and it does not provide an opportunity for more parishes to contribute generously to this vital mission of the Church.



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Q8: What change is taking place as of July 1, 2010?

CSAF will be increased from 1.5% to 3.79% of parish assessable income. ISA will no longer be billed by either the two High Schools or the parishes with schools to the non-school parishes. The increase in the current CSAF assessment of 2.29% will now be named CSAF+. This change will:

- Encourage more enrollment from non-school parishes;
- Ease the financial stress on poorer parishes and schools; and
- Provide the opportunity for all parishes to have a greater investment in the Catholic school ministry of the Church of northern Colorado.

Q9: What is the projected time-line for billing and distributing the increased CSAF+ Funds?

Parish monthly assessment bills will reflect the increased CSAF amount on the July 2010 invoices. As with all types of parish assessments, it will be extremely important that this CSAF+ assessment be paid on a timely basis. If not, there will be less money to distribute to the deserving parishes with schools. Payment of CSAF+ funds to parishes with schools and archdiocesan high schools will be in incremental payments from November-June of this fiscal year.

Q10: What are some key variables that may impact CSAF+?

There are three key variables that may impact CSAF+:

- (1) Parish assessable income may vary, affecting the total of CSAF+ billed;
- (2) Overall enrollment of Out of Parish Affiliated Students (OPAS) will fluctuate,
- (3) The percentage of OPAS at any individual school will vary from year to year.

Q11: How will the increased CSAF+ Funds be distributed?

In the initial transitional year (fiscal 2011), these funds will be distributed in two ways.

{1} Approximately one third of these funds will be allocated based on:

- (a) FY2011 parish/school budgets that are due to the Office of Parish Finance on or before May 1, 2010;
- (b) Compliance with Terms and Conditions of Grant Acceptance pertaining to 2009-10 grants (reference Grant Agreement provided in October 2009);
- (c) Submission of a CSAF Grant Request form (the form will be distributed to Schools by the Office of Catholic Schools).

{2} Two thirds of these funds (the portion that replaces previous ISA funds) will be distributed based on OPAS counts provided by schools in the National Catholic Educational Association Demographic Report due on or before October 8, 2010.



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Q12: How much will I receive per out-of-parish affiliated student?

This portion of the Increased CSAF funds will not be distributed at a per pupil rate. Rather it will be distributed based on percentages of total OPAS and available funds.

For example only, if next year there are 1,900 OPAS and \$1.7 million in CSAF+ funds available and School A has 66 OPAS (3.5% of total)—their share of CSAF+ would be \$59,500.