



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS GRANT PROGRAM



# Steps to Success

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What are the grant amounts awarded?**

Schools are eligible for a \$5,000 or \$10,000 grant.

### **What are the GIFTS grant focus areas?**

- Catholic Identity
- Educational Innovation
- School Marketing and Enrollment
- Project Initiation: Seed Money

### **What are some ideas to consider when selecting the project/program you are requesting a GIFTS grant for?**

- Consider programs or projects that generate learning opportunities beyond what already exists and has traditionally been done. We are looking for innovative ideas that enhance educational experience and can create a new learning component.
- Consider a project or program that involves Innovation that will distinguish your school from local alternatives.
- Consider the Catholic component of Catholic education.
- Consider a project or program that Introduces or improves services offered to students with learning challenges or disadvantages.

### **What will make my GIFTS grant application stand out?**

- The application clearly explains the project goal.
- The application explains the needs that will be met by the project.
- The project budget is clear and complete.
- What objective measurements of the project's effectiveness can you provide? One metric is acceptable but multiple metrics are better.
- If the project is not a one-time project, is the implementation sustainable and is there a realistic source of future funding?
- If possible, is there a link to the Parish and/or community to strengthen those relationships and the learning experience of the students?

**GIFTS grants cannot be written for:**

- Salaries and other ongoing operational costs.
- Normal rotation of replacement curriculum materials, Chromebooks, etc.

**Does every GIFTS grant selection committee member know about my school?**

No. Do not assume a grant selection committee member is as familiar with the project and your school as you are. Successful grant applications will give as much detail as possible.

**What questions are considered when the grant selection committee reviews your grant application?**

- Is the purpose clear?
- Can someone not familiar with your school easily understand your request?
- If this is a Schools Marketing and Enrollment grant request, is the return on investment realistic?

**How will the School Marketing and Enrollment be administered?**

- A professional marketing consultant will collaborate with the selected schools to determine the best use of the grant funds to increase enrollment.
- All plans must be approved by the Archdiocese Communication Office.
- The consultant will assist the school in implementing the approved plan.
- Grant fund will not be distributed to schools directly.

**How is our grant application evaluated?**

GIFTS grant applications that receive the highest marks will complete the following:

Project Design	Proposal articulates procedures and activities that are well defined, fully explained, and linked to project goals.
Project Goals	Goals for the project are clearly described and thoroughly documented; the proposal aligns with the NSBECS.
Project Impact	The proposal includes a well-developed narrative on how the program/project will positively impact the school culture and/or community in both the short and long term.
Plans for Project Evaluation and Participant Assessment	The proposal includes a variety of methods to assess participants and evaluate the project.
Budget	Budget is complete and contains required information. Budget is cost effective and linked to activities and outcomes.