

## Gaudet Scholarship Block — Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Gaudet Scholarship Block?

The Gaudet Scholarship Block is a diocesan fund supporting African American and BIPOC students attending Episcopal schools. It continues the legacy of Francis Joseph Gaudet by expanding access to education rooted in dignity, opportunity, and Beloved Community.

### What is new about the scholarship approach?

We have moved to an equity-centered model that prioritizes students with the greatest financial need. This includes an income cap, a burden-based eligibility threshold, and tiered award goals to ensure support meaningfully reduces financial barriers.

### What is the household income cap?

Students are eligible if household income is below \$100,000. This ensures funds are directed toward families for whom tuition represents a significant financial burden.

### What is the burden threshold?

Students must have a remaining tuition balance that is at least 15% of household income to qualify. We prioritize students within a 15%–40% burden range, with those above 40% considered highest need.

### How are scholarships awarded?

Scholarships are awarded using an equity-centered, three-tier model based on household income and tuition burden.

**Tier 1 (<\$30,000) → target of ~90% tuition coverage**

**Tier 2 (\$30,000–\$60,000) → target of ~70% coverage**

**Tier 3 (\$60,000–\$100,000) → target of ~40% coverage**

Each year, the **four students with the highest financial burden in Tier 1 receive full scholarships (100% of remaining tuition).**

Remaining funds are then distributed across eligible students using this tiered structure and scaled to the total funds available.

While current awards may not fully reach these target percentages for every student, these **benchmarks guide our distribution and reflect our long-term goal of growing the Gaudet Fund to more fully meet these levels of support.**

### **What is the goal of the scholarship awards?**

The goal of the Gaudet Scholarship Block is to reduce tuition to a **sustainable level for families**, not simply to provide partial assistance.

Following distribution, we aim for each scholarship recipient's tuition burden to fall within a **15%–40% range of household income**.

- **Below 15%** → indicates tuition is more manageable without additional support
- **15%–40%** → represents a more sustainable and equitable range
- **Above 40%** → indicates the highest level of need and priority for deeper support

This framework helps guide how funds are distributed so that support meaningfully reduces financial barriers and increases the likelihood that students can attend and remain in school.

### **Will every applicant receive funding?**

Not necessarily. Students who fall below the burden threshold or above the income cap may not receive funding. This allows for deeper, more meaningful support for those with the greatest need.

### **Why might some students receive less funding than in previous years?**

This model prioritizes depth of impact rather than broad distribution.

Some students may receive less so that others—particularly those facing the greatest barriers—can receive enough support to attend and remain in school.

### **How does this model define financial need?**

Financial need is based on both household income and tuition burden.

We distinguish between financial strain and financial impossibility, prioritizing support where tuition would otherwise be unsustainable.

### **Does the income cap take into account household size or number of children in a family?**

The Gaudet Scholarship model primarily uses household income and tuition burden to guide eligibility and award levels, and does not adjust awards based on the number of dependents.

Each student is considered individually, and if multiple children from the same family attend, each student may receive support based on the established tier structure.

At the same time, schools serve as trusted partners in this process. Because schools work closely with families and understand their full financial context, we rely on them to take into account broader household factors—such as family size—when submitting application information.

This approach allows the Gaudet Fund to maintain a clear and consistent framework while working in partnership with schools to support students in a meaningful and informed way.

### **What is the goal of the scholarship awards?**

The goal is not simply to offset tuition, but to reduce financial burden to a sustainable level—especially for families with the least financial capacity.

### **How are schools notified of awards?**

Each school receives:

- A total award amount
- A breakdown of awards by student

We also communicate directly with school leadership to provide context and support.

### **Is this model permanent?**

This model reflects a long-term commitment to equity and mission alignment. We will continue to refine it in partnership with our schools and community.

### **Are there opportunities for students beyond financial support?**

Yes. We are developing opportunities for Gaudet Scholars to engage in community, leadership, and mentorship, including:

- Student gatherings and shared reflection
- Opportunities to serve and mentor younger students
- A potential Senior Legacy Grant for graduating scholars

These efforts are designed to support not only access to education, but also student growth, leadership, and belonging.

### **What is the Senior Legacy Grant? \*(Emerging Initiative)\***

We are exploring a senior-year grant to support Gaudet Scholars transitioning to college or their next chapter. This may include awards (e.g., \$2,500–\$5,000) based on reflection, leadership, and engagement.

### **Who can I contact with questions?**

For questions or conversation, please contact:

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The Gaudet Scholarship Block exists to ensure that education is accessible, sustainable, and rooted in dignity. We are committed to stewarding these funds in ways that remove barriers and nurture Beloved Community.