2018/2019 Family Information & Application Process for Tuition Assistance

Lutheran Elementary School Association's (LESA) Building Blocks Scholarship Fund	**Lutheran Association for Special Education (LASE) Programs**

Need-based tuition assistance is available through **LESA's Building Blocks Scholarship Fund** to students in kindergarten through 8th grade who are enrolled in LESA-member elementary schools for the 2018/2019 academic year. This application process also serves families applying for tuition assistance for students receiving services through **LASE** for whom additional tuition fees are assessed.

Applications for financial assistance must be completed online **between January 1, 2018 and April 1, 2018** to be considered for May 2018 awards. If funding is available, applications received after April 1 will be reviewed and tuition assistance provided as funds are available.

Scholarships do not renew automatically. Families seeking assistance with the cost of tuition through the LESA Building Blocks or LASE programs must apply for funding each year, as available funding varies from year-to-year based on fundraising success, and the number of students qualifying for assistance varies each year. Completing the application does not guarantee that a scholarship will be provided.

Wondering if your family qualifies? Before applying for assistance, please note: Most families will qualify for some level of financial assistance from LESA's Building Blocks program if at least ten percent (10%) of their adjusted gross income (AGI), as reported for the previous tax year, is used to cover the cost of their child's/children's Lutheran kindergarten – 8th grade tuition. Consideration of requests will be given on a case-by-case basis to families expending less than 10% of their income on Lutheran elementary school tuition, provided extenuating circumstances exist.

To Apply for Tuition Assistance:

1. Visit the LESA website at www.lesastl.org and select the Scholarships tab. All applications will be submitted ONLINE through TADS at **mytads.com/fa/lesa**. Follow the prompts to complete the application. Have your 2017 federal income tax documents, W2 statements and paycheck stubs available, as well as a general idea of your household expenses. Allow approximately 30 minutes to complete your application.
2. Only one application per family, per year is required to apply for tuition-assistance.
3. In addition to completing the application and paying the $34 application fee, families must provide 2017 federal income tax documents to substantiate financial need as well as W2 statements and paycheck stubs. Income documents for TADS may be uploaded, faxed, or sent through US mail.
4. TADS customer service representatives are available to assist you with questions concerning the online application process through live chat and phone (1.800.477.8237) from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM central time.

Next Steps:

Upon completion of application review and award determinations by the Scholarship Awards Committee in early May, school administrators and families will be notified of LESA's Building Blocks Scholarship Fund award decisions the last week of May directly by the LESA office. Families submitting applications for LASE tuition assistance will be contacted directly by the LASE office of those award determinations. Scholarship funds will be sent directly to the school.

Please contact your school administrator or the LESA office (314-200-0790)
if you have any questions on the Building Blocks program or application process.

For answers to your questions about Lutheran Association for Special Education (LASE)
tuition assistance, please contact Diane Stout at the LASE office (314-268-1234).

www.LESAstl.org

Our Mission: *LESA provides financial resources for children in need to obtain Lutheran Christian education. We advocate and support efforts to improve the sustainability and quality of Lutheran Christian schools in the metro St. Louis area.*

Vision: *An academically excellent Lutheran Christian education is a realistic choice for all children.*