

February 2024

Strengthening, Growing, and Advocating for Christian Schools in Iowa!

2024-25 ESA Application Timeline

ESA applications will be open from April 16 to June 30. Look for more information to be coming out from the [Iowa Department of Education](#) in the next few weeks. We will be sure to share any important updates and information as we receive it!

Qualifications for the 24-25 school year for ESAs include:

- All incoming K students
- All public school or homeschool students who transfer to a Christian school, regardless of income
- Students who qualified for the ESA this year (no matter the income) – “once in, always in” – a reminder that parents still need to apply on Odyssey every year
- Students in families who are 400% of the poverty level and lower

School Success Story

Twelve years ago, Sioux Center Christian School (SCCS) established a comprehensive Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework, encompassing three tiers of instruction and support for students. To align with this framework, the school strategically expanded their staff, increasing the number of learning center teachers, paraprofessionals, reading instructors, and other essential roles. Additionally, SCCS has adopted a science of reading-based curriculum, specifically emphasizing phonics for lower elementary education. This proactive approach reflects an ongoing commitment to providing effective and tailored support for student success at the school. According to reading assessment results, on average, SCCS 1st and 2nd graders are a full grade level ahead of where they should be testing, and, on average, 3rd graders are nearly two grade levels ahead of where they should be testing in reading.

2024 Guidelines	
Persons in family/ household	Poverty guideline
2	\$81,760.00
3	\$103,280.00
4	\$124,800.00
5	\$146,320.00
6	\$167,840.00
7	\$189,360.00
8	\$210,880.00



Sioux Center Christian School Students

Follow the 2024 Legislative Session

You can follow our real time, up-to-date [bill tracker](#) to see where IACS stands on bills that have been introduced on our website under the [advocacy](#) tab. [Make sure you are signed up to receive texts and emails from IACS!](#)

The school has also implemented science of reading-based Wilson Reading Systems with students who have dyslexia. SCCS has a Wilson certified teacher who provides these services for 20 students during the school day. Students used to have to get support outside of school, and now they are able to receive it during the school day.

Wilson assessments indicate students achieving full grade levels of progress within 6 months of working with the instructor and the program. They are also greatly increasing their self-confidence, which affects all areas of learning.

School Success Story Continued...

SCCS currently has 20 teachers participating in the Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training provided by Governor Reynolds at no cost to teachers in public and non-public schools.



Students reading at SCCS

At IACS, we love to share our member schools' commitment to providing excellence in education to the students and families they serve! Email your school's success story to lydia@iowachristianschools.org

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