

Out of Parish Affiliated Students (OPAS)

The Archdiocese of Denver Catholic Schools distributes Catholic Schools Assistance Fund Plus (CSAF+) monies to schools based upon the number of out-of-parish affiliated students (OPAS) in grades Kindergarten—12 registered and attending school for the current academic school year. All OPAS must be accounted for on an annual basis using the Archdiocese of Denver Catholic Schools “School Out-of-Parish Affiliation” form.

DEFINITION—PARISH AFFILIATION

Parish Affiliation is defined as families who are members of Archdiocese of Denver parishes and whose children are enrolled in an archdiocesan elementary school for Kindergarten or a higher grade, or one of the two archdiocesan-operated high schools. These families are eligible to receive the affiliated Catholic tuition rate if they meet the following criteria:

- 1) The family has been registered in the parish for at least six (6) months.
- 2) The family verifiably contributes, according to their means, on a regular basis to the financial support of the parish.
- 3) The family attends Mass regularly and is involved in the activities, organizations or programs at the parish.

DEFINITION—OUT-OF-PARISH AFFILIATED STUDENT

Affiliated Catholics not members of the school parish must provide the “School Out-of-Parish Affiliation” form to their pastor for verification and signature. If the form is signed by the pastor and returned to the school, students in grades Kindergarten—12 are considered and counted as OPAS

PROCESS—ON AN ANNUAL BASIS

- 1) The school provides the registering family with the Archdiocese of Denver Catholic Schools School Out-of-Parish Affiliation form to be completed for the upcoming academic school year.
- 2) The family provides the School Out-of-Parish Affiliation form to the pastor of their parish for verification and signature.
- 3) If the family meets the criteria to receive the affiliated tuition rate, the pastor signs the form and returns it to the family. No other signatures will be considered valid. The pastor must sign the form for the family to receive the Catholic affiliated tuition rate and be considered an OPAS.
- 4) The family returns the completed, signed School Out-of-Parish Affiliation form to the school by September 15.
- 5) The school retains the completed, signed School Out-of-Parish Affiliation form with the tuition contract paperwork.
- 6) An additional copy of the School Out-of-Parish Affiliation form can be kept in the school office to be used for reference during the current academic school year.

VERIFICATION

Verification of Parish Affiliation must be completed on an annual basis. In order for students in grades Kindergarten—12 to be considered an OPAS on the October 1 official enrollment count, a signed School Out-of-Parish Affiliation form for the current academic school year must be filed with the school by September 15.

OUT-OF-PARISH AFFILIATED STUDENTS (OPAS)

In order to be counted as an OPAS in the October 1 official enrollment count and for the school to receive CSAF+ funds:

- 1) A student must have on file with the school the signed School Out-of-Parish Affiliation form by September 15.
- 2) The School Out-of-Parish Affiliation form must be signed by a pastor from a church in the Archdiocese of Denver.

OPAS ARE NOT

- School Out-of-Parish Affiliation forms from Catholic churches outside of the Archdiocese of Denver DO NOT qualify the student as an OPAS; the family may receive the affiliated tuition rate, but they do not count as an OPAS.
- School Out-of-Parish Affiliation forms from non-Catholic churches DO NOT qualify the student as an OPAS and the family does not qualify for the affiliated tuition rate.
- Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten students DO NOT qualify for CSAF+ funds and are not considered OPAS.