



**CHARLES TOWNE
MONTESSORI**

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND PROGRAM

Important financial information
for all families for the 2026-27
school year.



Dear Charles Towne Montessori Families,

We're excited to share a major opportunity that can make private school education more accessible and affordable for many families: the South Carolina Education Scholarship Trust Fund (ESTF). On May 7, 2025, Governor Henry McMaster signed S. 62 into law, allowing the ESTF program to resume processing tuition and fee payments for independent and online schools. Charles Towne Montessori has been approved by the South Carolina Department of Education to receive funds through this program. Note that there is no requirement that a participating private or independent school change its curriculum, admissions policies, creed, or other internal programs in order to accept ESTF funds - state law explicitly prohibits expanding the state's regulatory authority over education service providers beyond what's necessary for the program.

Note: Eligible families are those with a child who turns 5 by September 1, 2026 and is a 3rd year Primary or Elementary student. Eligible families can apply to receive \$7,500 per student to help cover tuition and other approved educational expenses. To qualify, annual household income must be at or below 500% of the 2025 Federal Poverty Guideline for your family size (for example, 500% of the FPL for a family of 4 is \$160,750 - see additional family size income levels [here](#)).

Key Details & Deadlines:

- Up to 15,000 scholarships will be awarded statewide for the 2026–2027 school year - apply as early as possible!
 - Families who typically apply for CTM financial aid or scholarships must now apply for ESTF, if eligible. This allows us to extend aid to more families. If additional need exists beyond ESTF, families may still apply for CTM financial aid; ESTF awards will be considered in determining CTM aid. If you may need additional assistance beyond ESTF, plan to apply through the regular CTM Financial Aid/Scholarship application via SSS by March 1, 2026.
 - CTM financial aid / scholarship awards will assume \$7,500 per student from ESTF and will be revisited and adjusted appropriately if ESTF funding is not awarded.
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Dates to apply for ESTF funding:

- **Nov 1:** Renewal applications open for students who received 2025–26 funding & their siblings
- **Jan 15:** Applications open for priority groups (active military, $\leq 300\%$ FPL, or attended public school previous year)
- **Feb 9:** Applications open for all households $\leq 500\%$ FPL

Whats Next?

1. We recommend going ahead and filling out the ESTF waiting list form now to receive notifications when the 2026–27 application opens.
2. Make notes of dates & deadlines
 - CTM financial aid application deadline: March 1st 2026 (awards will assume ESTF application & award) . Click [here](#) to apply.
 - ESTF application dates (Nov. 1, Jan. 15, Feb 9th)

Please notify Clarissa Lesnak, Admissions Coordinator at admissions@ctmlife.com once you submit your ESTF application and when you receive confirmation of acceptance or denial or if you have any questions.

