

DISTRICT STUDENT AID PROGRAM

I. GENERAL

A. Purpose

The purpose of the District Student Aid Program is to assist in providing an on-going supply of full-time church workers in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. The program is funded through the allocation of funds in the budget of the Southeastern District as well as donations from congregations, auxiliary organizations, and individuals. Such donations are encouraged to supplement the budgeted amount by gifts so that the substantial financial needs of our students may be more nearly met.

B. Objectives

The objective of the program is to provide grants for any and all qualifying costs of education on an annual school year basis, to those individuals within the Southeastern District who desire to study at one of the Concordia System schools in pursuit of a full-time professional career in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

Southeastern District students attending a non-LCMS college or university (i.e., Valparaiso for deaconess training) may also apply for financial aid if the institution offers courses of study qualifying the student for admission to one of our seminaries or for a full-time career in church work in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

It is the stated policy of the SED Student Aid Program to help the education of our students who have committed themselves to a full-time church work career, receiving their training at Lutheran schools. There may be an exceptional, extraordinary circumstance where a student could earn educational credits at a non-Lutheran institution that would help qualify the student for LCMS seminary admittance or for other areas of full-time LCMS church work. These special applications will be considered on an individual basis and resolved by the SED Student Aid Task Force.

Individuals who are members in good standing of a congregation and are employed as full-time non-synodically trained teachers and enroll in a colloquy program to obtain a Lutheran Teacher Diploma (LTD) will be considered for assistance.

II. REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

A. Applicant Qualifications:

- The applicant must be a communicant member of a congregation affiliated with the Southeastern District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.
- The applicant must intend to enter the service of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod as a professional church worker such as a Pastor, Teacher, Deaconess, Director of Christian Outreach (DCO), Parish Worker, Social Worker, Director of Christian Education (DCE), or Lay Minister. Aid is not given during vicarages, internships (i.e., for DCE, Deaconess), graduate studies (other than seminary), or part-time students.

B. Students must apply each year they wish to be considered for a grant.

- C. If this is the student's first year at an institution, proof of acceptance to the school must be submitted.
- D. Grants are for a maximum of one academic year (September through May) or a corresponding portion of an academic year. Assistance is not provided for summer sessions.
- E. The SED-LCMS will seek the endorsement of the pastor of the home congregation for first-time applicants. (If the pastor is a relative of the applicant or if there is a pastoral vacancy, the endorsement may be made by the congregational president.)
- F. This assistance is a grant made in the expectation that the applicant will complete his/her studies and enter full-time service in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. In the event that he/she does not enter the service of the church or does not complete his/her program, the student has a moral obligation to repay the total amount of assistance they have received from the District.
- G. To ensure adequate consideration, all applications and any requested documentation must be in the District office by May 31. Applications received after this date will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will be subject to availability of funds.
- H. A Special Task Force administers the Student Aid Program for the Southeastern District. The Task Force operates within the policies and procedures as described in this section of the SED Operations Manual (OM-360). The Task Force meets on or about June 15th each year.
- I. The scale of grant awards will be set by the Student Aid Task Force each year.
- J. Grants are provided for up to four years of undergraduate studies and seminary training. Exceptions will be considered if the respective program of the school requires additional courses and training resulting in 5 years at a college or university.
- K. All grants are paid by the District directly to the school in two installments (August and December).

Send applications to request a grant to:

Student Aid Task Force
Southeastern District - LCMS
6315 Grovedale Drive
Alexandria, VA 22310-2501

Phone Inquiries: 703-971-9371 (toll free 800-637-5723), Ext. 213