

St. Vincent de Paul Parish & Sacred Heart School

RaiseRight Program FAQs

1. Why did the program need to change?

New recommendations on how to run a RaiseRight program have been provided by the Diocese based on a Private Letter Ruling (PLR) from the IRS. Due to this new guidance, and moving towards the stewardship model in our parish, changes needed to be made in the way we run the program here at St. Vincent de Paul and Sacred Heart School.

2. What are the changes in the program? How do they affect me?

The main change in our program is how we view ownership of earned rebates and increased need for documentation. Rebates earned by families and parishioners participating in the program belong to them. The parish and school are facilitators of the program and do not have ownership of rebates. This means you must direct the program administrators how to designate rebates you earn through the RaiseRight program, minus an administrative fee, via user agreements. You now have a choice to designate your rebates to one of three options: a charitable contribution to the school/parish, a cash rebate to you, or credit to school tuition/fees.

3. Why is there now an administrative fee for the program? How much is it?

Currently, the program does not cover the full cost of running it. The time, effort, and cost to insure we are in full compliance with the new guidance from the Diocese will increase the existing cost of the program. Having an administrative fee will ensure the parish and school do not lose money by facilitating the program, but instead benefit from it along with you. This fee will also allow us to expand the program, making it even easier for you to earn rebates. The new fee will be 20% of total rebates, meaning you will retain access to 80% of the rebates earned. Most schools running a RaiseRight program have a 50% administrative fee. We have worked hard to make sure the new fee for our program is as small as possible, while still providing you the biggest benefit possible.

4. Do I have to sign an agreement to participate? How often do I need to sign an agreement?

Yes. Based on the new guidelines, everyone that participates in the program must fill out an agreement designating where your rebates will be directed. This agreement only needs to be filled out once. If you want to change where your rebates are directed, you will need to fill out a new agreement.

5. Do I have to fill out a pick-up authorization form? How often do I need to fill out this form?

You only need to fill out a pick-up authorization form if you order physical cards and are not able to pick them up from the office yourself. If you only purchase electronic gift cards through the RaiseRight app you do not need to complete the pick-up authorization form. This document needs to be completed annually at the beginning of each school year.

6. Can my extended family participate in the program to help with our tuition? Do they need to fill out an agreement?

Yes, we encourage our school families to have their extended family participate in the program. This is an excellent way to help defray the cost of tuition. Yes, anyone participating in the program must complete an agreement. Electronic copies of the form are available on the school website for those family members that do not live in the area.

7. If my extended family participates, are the rebates they designate towards my tuition a charitable donation?

No, any rebates directed towards tuition are not considered a charitable donation based on the PLR.

8. I'm a parishioner; do I need to fill out an agreement to participate?

Yes, anyone participating in the program must complete an agreement. Paper copies of the agreement will be available at the RaiseRight table after each Mass. Before purchasing physical gift cards a parishioner must either have an agreement on file or complete one at the time of purchase.

9. I'm a parishioner; if I designate my rebates towards tuition for a specific student(s), is it a charitable donation?

No, any rebates directed towards tuition are not considered a charitable donation based on the PLR.

10. What is eligible for a tax deduction?

Only rebates directed to the school/parish as a charitable contribution are tax deductible. Rebates taken as a cash payment or directed towards a tuition account are not tax deductible. The administrative fee is also not tax deductible.

11. Will the school or parish provide a giving statement for taxes?

Yes. Parishioners participating in RaiseRight program, including those that have children attending SHS, who designate their rebates be directed as a charitable contribution to the school/parish will have the rebate amount accumulated through the calendar year added to their parish giving statements. School families that are not parishioners will receive a giving statement, upon request, from the school for the rebate amount accumulated through the calendar year.

12. How often will rebates be paid out and when will I see them?

Rebates will be paid out once a year in mid to late January. The timeframe for accruing rebates will correspond with the tax year, January 1st through December 31st.

13. Will my information be shared with the IRS?

No, your information will NOT be shared with the IRS. Any information you provide through the agreement will stay within the school/parish RaiseRight program. We do not report purchases or donations to the IRS.