

## Georgia GOAL Scholarship Program

Wonderful news! There has been a major breakthrough in the efforts to bring school choice to Georgia. In 2008, the Georgia legislature enacted a scholarship tax credit law. The law allows individuals and businesses to re-direct a portion or all of their state income tax payments to provide scholarships at K-12 private schools. Mt. Bethel Christian Academy (“MBCA”) is participating in the Georgia GOAL (“Greater Opportunities for Access to Learning”) Scholarship Program, a leading student scholarship organization. As a result, donors to GOAL can designate that their contributions be used for scholarships at MBCA. Eligible students include those who are presently in the public schools or students who are entering kindergarten. Students are able to receive up to 85% of the school’s tuition rate, or \$10,000, whichever is less. Each year, MBCA will use its regular admission and financial aid processes to identify eligible students and submit the scholarship candidates and amounts to GOAL for final approval.

### **How this helps you, the school, the children, and the Kingdom.**

You are already paying income taxes to the state. Why not re-direct some of those taxes to this opportunity to bless a family who would not otherwise be able to afford a Christian school education? Married couples filing jointly, S corporations, LLC’s, and LLP’s can make a contribution and receive a tax credit up to \$2,500. For those who file as individuals, the limit is \$1,000. If you are the owner of a “C” corporation, you may contribute and receive a tax credit up to 75% of your Georgia income tax liability!

Your contribution helps strengthen and grow Mt. Bethel Christian Academy by helping to increase enrollment. The school will be able to help more families in need of financial assistance by accessing funds that are in the new scholarship program without taxing the funds that we raise annually to help families in need.

This is one of those great items of prayer that has been answered. This program has given us the ability to enable more children to go to school in a place that saturates them with the Word of God.

### **How can you be a blessing to a child who deserves a premier Christ-centered education?**

1. Go to the [www.mtbethelchristian.org](http://www.mtbethelchristian.org) main page and click on “Georgia GOAL Scholarship-Donors” to download a tax credit pre-approval form. Complete this form and return it to MBCA for mailing to the Georgia Department of Revenue (“DOR”) on your behalf. No payment is required at the time of filing. This pre-approval form allows the DOR to make sure that the annual state wide \$50 million cap on these available tax credits has not been exceeded.
2. In 30 days or less, unless the cap has been reached, the DOR will send you an approved copy of your pre-approval form.
3. Once you receive your approved form, you write your contribution check to Georgia GOAL Scholarship Program, Inc., designate Mt. Bethel Christian Academy in the memo section, and, as soon as possible (all contributions must be made within 30 days of receiving notice of approval), deliver the check to MBCA along with a copy of your approved form. MBCA will mail your check and form to GOAL, and GOAL will send you a contribution acknowledgement form to file with your Georgia income tax return.
4. The contributed amount is claimed as a direct credit against your Georgia income taxes for the applicable year; PLUS, the contributed amount is treated as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Is there a website address for the scholarship program that Mt. Bethel Christian Academy is using?

Yes, we are working with Georgia GOAL Scholarship Program and their website address is [www.goalscholarship.org](http://www.goalscholarship.org).

### What is the intention of the new law?

The new law is designed to give school choice to families currently in the public school system and who have limited income.

### Which students are eligible to receive scholarships through Georgia GOAL?

New students to MBCA coming from the public school system and incoming kindergarten students are eligible.

### What is the maximum amount I can contribute?

For a single individual or head of household, the maximum is \$1,000; for a married couple filing jointly, the maximum is \$2,500; for a C corporation, the maximum is 75% of the corporation's income tax liability; for an S or LLC corporation, the maximum is \$2,500.

### Will my contribution go to MBCA students only?

You will be able to designate MBCA when you send your contribution to the Georgia GOAL, but you will not be able to designate a particular student.

### What do I need to do to participate?

There are four steps...

#### 1. Get Pre-Qualified.

Please download for completion Georgia Form IT-QEE-TP1 from the MBCA website (<http://mtbethelchristian.org/>) by clicking on the "Donors" link in the upper right section of the page. After completing this simple, two-page form, return it to Mt. Bethel Christian Academy for filing with the Georgia Department of Revenue. If you have any problems downloading the IT-QEE-TP1 from our website, you may also access it from the Georgia Department of Revenue website ([https://etax.dor.ga.gov/inctax/individual\\_income\\_tax\\_forms.aspx](https://etax.dor.ga.gov/inctax/individual_income_tax_forms.aspx)). PLEASE NOTE: If you complete the form from the DOR website, item 3 under section A. Contribution Amount, please enter "Georgia GOAL Scholarship Program", and item 4 in section A enter the taxpayer ID# which is 65-1280229.

#### 2. Confirmation.

The DOR will review your form and confirm that the \$50 million yearly cap has not been exceeded. The DOR will then send you a copy of the approved Form IT-QEE-TP1 by U.S. Mail.

#### 3. Contribute to Help Kids.

After you receive your approved Form IT-QEE-TP1, you will need to immediately send a check—along with a copy of your approval form—to Mt. Bethel Christian Academy made payable to Georgia GOAL Scholarship Program in the amount of your approved contribution (or a lesser amount). **In the memo section of the check, please designate "Mt. Bethel Christian Academy"**. MBCA can then deliver your check and approved form to GOAL so that it falls within the 30 day

window from the date on which you received notice that the DOR had approved your intended contribution.

#### **4. Get Credit!**

GOAL will send you a confirmation Form IT-QEE-SSO1, which you will need to send in with your state tax return in order to claim your corresponding income tax credit.

#### **Is there a maximum that the student can receive?**

Yes, the maximum scholarship is 85% of the MBCA tuition or \$10,000, whichever is less.

#### **Can the same student receive scholarship money for more than one year?**

Yes, a GOAL scholarship is awarded for as long as the student is enrolled at MBCA; however, the amount of the scholarship assistance will vary based on the ongoing financial need of the student's family, the availability of designated scholarship funds, and the student's academic and other good standing at MBCA.

#### **Is there a deadline to contribute?**

The contribution to GOAL must be made within 30 days after receiving notice from the DOR that the intended contribution was approved.

#### **Can I designate my contribution to a particular student?**

No, but you may designate the school by putting the school's name in the memo section of your check.

#### **How does the Department of Revenue know when to stop approving contributions?**

The DOR tracks amounts that have been committed using the IT-QEE-TP1 form. Approvals of contributions stop when \$50 million is reached in each calendar year. Approvals are made on a first come, first served basis.

#### **What if a contributor over-estimates state taxes and pays too much to the Georgia GOAL Scholarship Program?**

If the amount of the contribution made to GOAL exceeds the amount of Georgia income taxes owed, the excess contribution amount can be carried over to, and applied in, the next tax year for up to five years.

#### **What if a contributor changes his mind about the amount he wishes to contribute after he receives approval from the state?**

The amount can be changed to a lower amount. A contributor cannot, however, increase the amount previously designated on his application form. If, after contributing the approved amount (or less), the taxpayer desires to re-direct additional Georgia income taxes to GOAL, he or she must submit a new pre-approval for to the DOR.

#### **Where do contributors designate to which school they wish to appropriate funds?**

Contributors can designate the school of their choice in the memo portion of the check they write to Georgia Goal Scholarship Program.

**Please take credit for helping students realize their GOAL—Greater Opportunities for Access to Learning!**

**For those who would like to apply for a GOAL Scholarship**

If you are reading this and wondering how you could receive the blessing of a GOAL scholarship at Mt. Bethel Christian Academy, here are the steps you need to take:

1. Learn about Mt. Bethel Christian Academy so you can make a wise decision about which Christian school is best for your family. You should visit the school's website at [www.mtbethelchristian.org](http://www.mtbethelchristian.org) to learn more about us and call for an information packet.
2. Call the school and make an appointment to tour our facilities or attend one of our Open House presentations.
3. If you would like to attend Mt. Bethel Christian Academy, fill out an application for enrollment.
4. The school will take you through the normal enrollment process and notify you regarding acceptance for your student and approval for your scholarship request.