



St Elizabeth Ann Seton
CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

Clarification regarding the age for Teen Confirmation

Teen Confirmation in the Diocese of Fort Worth is the normal process of reception for the sacrament for students (15-18) who have been baptized, made their first communion, and are active in their faith.

The guidelines for Teen Confirmation in the Diocese of Fort Worth state that a student must be at *least* 15 years old. It is not a specific grade level. Additionally, our guidelines for the sacrament state that Confirmation prep *may begin* at age 15.

Our program at SEAS has historically only required a student to be 15 at the time of the Confirmation mass. This has continually been a point of contention for parents whose students miss the cutoff date (our June mass).

Over the next two years, we will be shifting the start age to begin preparation at 15, re-aligning with [Diocesan guidelines for the sacrament](#).

Because of the confusion and shock caused by the abruptness of implementing this guideline for the 2023-2024 class at SEAS, we are maintaining the cutoff date from last year:

- **Students must be 15 by June 30, of 2024 to be Confirmed with the 2023-2024 class.**
 - Students turning 15 after July 1, 2024 must wait to begin preparation in September 2024.
- For the class of 2024-2025, students must be 15 by December 31 to be confirmed in Spring of 2025.
- For the class of 2025-2026, students must be 15 by September to be confirmed in Spring of 2026.

Additionally, questions have been raised about students being confirmed before the age of 15 at SEAS. There are only 3 conditions in which someone would be Confirmed before the age of 15:

- The student is in the RCIC program (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children) and will be baptized, confirmed, and make first communion at Easter.
- The student did not receive their first communion at the normal ages of 7-8.
 - Therefore, they are in Young Disciples, a sacrament catch-up program and must make confirmation and first communion together per canonical instruction.
- The student appealed for early Confirmation.
 - This appeal claims that a student is **spiritually mature, actively involved in the faith, comprehends the sacrament and the mission beyond the norm for their age, and therefore need no further preparation and are ready to be confirmed.**
 - *This is a formal appeal process to the diocese and does not guarantee that bishop will grant permission.*