



## Frequently Asked Questions About Flexible Tuition

At Presidio Hill School, we understand that many families find it challenging to pay independent school tuition. In an effort to make our school as accessible as possible, we continue to investigate alternative tuition structures and encourage our families to explore other options as well.

We believe the value of a PHS education far exceeds the considerable financial commitment it requires and understand that some families will need a tuition more aligned with their household income. We are committed to helping our families find the resources to make their child's attendance a reality. As part of our commitment to socio-economic diversity, 28% of our student body receives flexible tuition in 2021-2022.

### What is flexible tuition?

Flexible tuition, sometimes called indexed tuition financial aid, or tuition assistance is a reduction in tuition for families who need it. Simply put, need is defined as the difference between the school's tuition and what the family can afford. Flexible tuition at Presidio Hill School is given in the form of grants that do not need to be repaid. Flexible tuition comes from the school's annual operating budget, which is provided through tuition revenue and fundraising.

### How do I decide whether to apply for flexible tuition? How much will I have to pay?

Since eligibility is based on many factors, it is impossible to know how much you will pay without a thorough review of your finances. Family assets, the number of children in tuition-charging schools, and many other factors affect how much you pay. You should apply if you question whether you can pay all the costs yourself. The following statistics can offer some insight into the range of circumstances for families who pay a flexible tuition.

\$81,287	Average gross income (one child in tuition paying school)
\$127,408	Average gross income (two children in tuition paying schools)
\$28,122	Average annual grant
\$7,485	Average annual family payment for those paying a flexible tuition

It is our expectation that families who begin at PHS paying the full tuition will continue to do so unless there is a significant change in family finances.

### How are flexible tuition decisions made?

Decisions are made by a committee. The committee includes the Head of School, the Assistant Head of School, the Director of Finance and the Director of Admission & Flexible Tuition who oversees the committee. The committee follows the Principles of Good Practice for Financial Aid of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). Great effort is made to treat each application with the respect, confidentiality, and thoroughness that it deserves.

To determine the fairest and most equitable family payment, Presidio Hill School uses (as do most independent schools) the School and Student Services (SSS) by NAIS. This system analyzes the information you provide on your Parents' Financial Statement and computes a recommended payment for tuition. Each school then amends this recommendation according to its own internal policies. This may include additional factors not computed in the methodology, such as cost of living and special circumstances. More information about these policies is included in the document Determining Flexible Tuition at Presidio Hill School.

**If I receive flexible tuition, do I have to re-apply each year?**

Yes. Family finances can change from year to year and re-applying ensures that we distribute the school's budget equitably each year. Only applications that are received by the required deadlines will be considered.

**In a two-parent household, must both parents work in order to be eligible for flexible tuition?**

In general, yes, unless one parent is home with children too young for school or is caring full time for a disabled or elderly family member. Additionally, we may consider awarding assistance to families where one parent is in transition back to the workforce or in school. However, we will impute an additional amount to your family's income equation to account for this.

**Does Presidio Hill School expect stepparents, domestic partners, ex-spouses, or ex-domestic partners to be part of my application for flexible tuition?**

Yes, since this type of situation generally changes your family's financial picture. We ask all parents or guardians to complete the application to provide a realistic picture of family resources. We are also aware that circumstances differ widely, so please contact the office if some or all information cannot be provided, or if you have additional questions.

**Does everyone who qualifies for flexible tuition receive it?**

No. Like most schools, we have more qualified applicants than we have money in the budget. Some families will be placed on a flexible tuition waiting list. As funds become available, all students on the list will be considered equally, and we will offer grants according to the enrollment needs of the school.

**Is it possible to appeal our flexible tuition decision?**

Yes. If you feel that you have forgotten or not appropriately clarified specific financial information, or if you have new information to communicate, please submit it in writing to the Flexible Tuition Committee for reconsideration via [kelly@presidiohill.org](mailto:kelly@presidiohill.org)

**When are decisions made?**

If the application is submitted on time, returning families will receive a flexible tuition decision with their re-enrollment agreement in February 2022. New families will receive a flexible tuition decision with their acceptance mailed in March 2022.

**English is not my first language, I need help understanding the process, what do I do?**

Please let Kelly know that you may need translation/explanation in another language. We will do our best to find someone in our community to clarify information. 415-751-9318 x104 or by email at [kelly@presidiohill.org](mailto:kelly@presidiohill.org)