

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding CFIS's Tuition Fees

CFIS is a financially stable independent school focused on excellence in education. This focus is highlighted in Statements 1 and 4 of the school's strategic plan:

Statement 1: We will continue to advance the current direction (values, recognize and achieve each student's unique potential – academically and holistically).

Statement 4: We will build financial strength for future sustainability (aim to reduce debt, build endowment, review and set applicable tuition & fees).

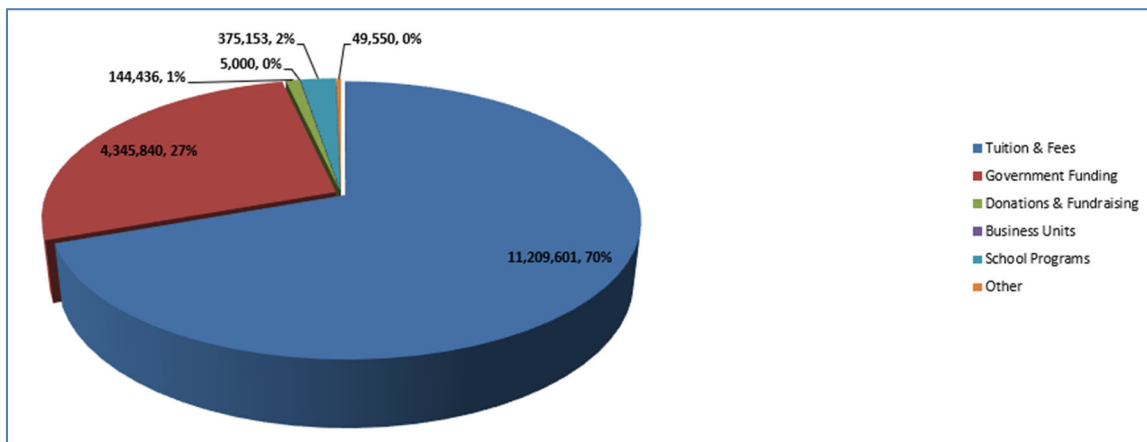
Q. What are the tuition fees of other comparable Calgary-area independent schools?

A. The chart below compares the current (2021-22) tuition fees of CFIS, Rundle College, Strathcona Tweedsmuir School (STS), Webber Academy, and West Island College (WIC).

	CFIS	Rundle	STS	Webber	West Island College
Kindergarten	\$14,260	\$14,250	\$17,003	JK- \$18,000 KG - \$18,400	n/a
Elem. (Gr. 1-3)	\$14,260	\$16,665	\$21,603	\$18,400	n/a
Elem. (Gr. 4-6)	\$14,470	\$16,830	\$23,044	\$18,400	n/a
Junior High	\$15,710	\$18,870	\$23,934	\$19,000	\$18,930
Senior High	\$16,680	\$20,130	\$24,484	\$19,500	\$18,930
One-Time Fees (membership)	\$2000/family	\$2000/ family	\$3,500/student		\$3,500/family
Additional Fees - Annual	Annual registration fee \$500/family		Bussing \$500/student Annual per-student \$620 (gr. 6&7)		
One-time capital fees	\$4,000/family Bldg. Fund Loan (refundable)	New student facility fee - \$2,000/student		\$6,000/student (refundable enrolment bond)	Capital Improvement fee \$3,500/family
Technology Fee	N/A	included with tuition	\$350 (K-5); \$450 (6-12)		included with tuition
Tuition cancel. insurance			\$250 (non-ref.; to cover tuition cancellation only)		

Q. What are CFIS's sources of revenue?

A. The below chart shows CFIS's revenue streams in 2020-21:

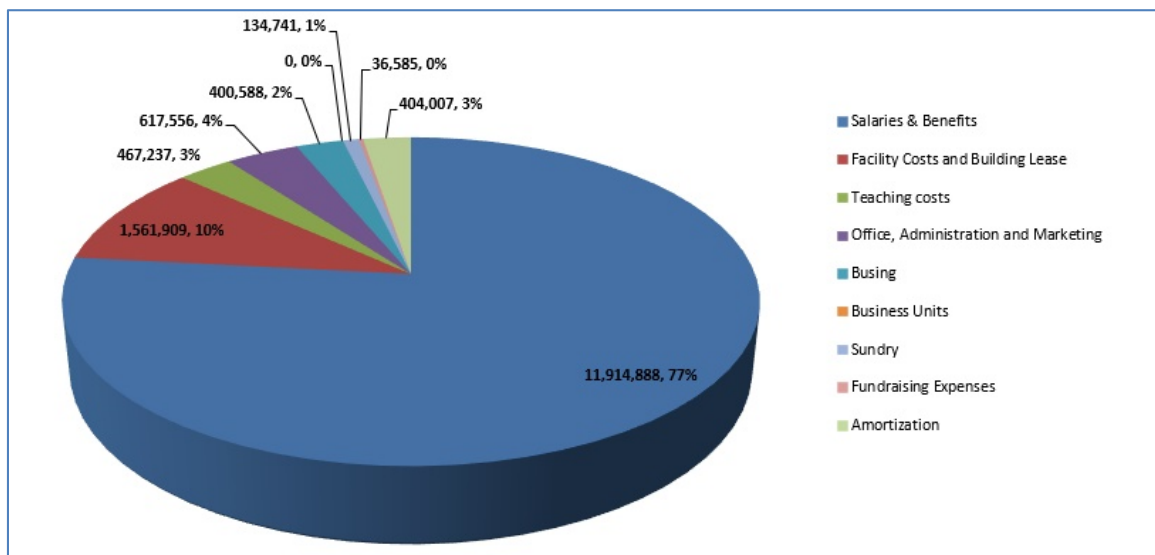


Alberta Education’s funding formula to independent schools had remained static for many years, and changed in fiscal 2021. This funding formula change is expected to negatively impact CFIS by reducing per student average amounts for government funding at the high school level. For the year ended August 31, 2021, additional funding for Covid-19 relief of over \$400,000 was received by CFIS, and was included in government funding revenue.

Q: What are CFIS’s major operating costs (expenditures)?

A: Major areas of expenditure include teacher and staff salaries and wages (including pension/RSP contributions, and premiums for employee health and dental benefits); the monthly lease payments to the Foundation; utilities, maintenance and improvements to the building and grounds; educational enhancements to various levels of the school (e.g. UNESCO, CAIS, Round Square, and IB) and individual student learning (e.g. learning strategists, literacy coaches); and strategic initiatives.

The chart below shows CFIS’s expenditures in 2020-21:



Q. What factors contribute to annual increases in CFIS’s tuition fees?

A. The CFIS Society Board does not take tuition fee increases lightly, but it also has a fiduciary responsibility to the short-term and long-term viability of the school. In general, a three percent annual increase in tuition fees would only serve to **maintain** the status quo of provision of learning. There are a number of factors why this is so.

CFIS’s teaching salary grid attempts to align with those of local school jurisdictions (such as the Calgary Board of Education and the Calgary Catholic School District). This is done in order to retain our teachers, who are one of our school’s greatest assets. It should also be noted that the nature of a teaching salary grid is such that a teacher’s salary is mandated (by the grid) to increase approximately \$4,000 per year for each year of experience, up to a maximum of eleven years. With anywhere from 60 to 70 teachers at CFIS “on the grid” each year, this in itself equates to anywhere from a 1.5 to 2.5 percentage tuition fee increase.

Other factors that contribute to potential increases include increases to health insurance premiums, cost of utilities, building maintenance costs, and the implementation of key strategic initiatives that support the vision and mission of the school.

Each year, Administration and the Board of Directors review revenues and expenses, and base any future tuition increase on a combination of the above factors. While the Board would ideally want to not increase tuition during difficult economic times or in a pandemic, it is not prudent in either the short term or the long term to do so.

Q: Is there any way to predict the tuition fees into the future?

A: The CFIS Society's Board of Directors and Administration is committed to fiscal stewardship, and this must always be a priority in order to ensure the future viability and sustainability of the school.

All revenues and expenditures are reviewed on a regular basis. Given current provincial government funding levels, we anticipate that an annual increase in fees of somewhere between three and six percent will be required going forward, to maintain the status quo with respect to CFIS's provision of learning and implementation of key strategic initiatives that support the school's vision and mission.

In general, independent (private) schools have three levers: Tuition fees, class sizes, and salaries/wages. Moving one lever affects another lever. Our school's Independent school administrators and the members of the Society Board work constantly to determine the optimal balance between these three levers. For example, lower tuition would likely mean an increase in the number of students per class.

Q: I am a current CFIS parent who loves the school, but due to a change in economic circumstances, am currently unable to afford tuition fees. Are there supports in place to help?

A: CFIS families of current students in Kindergarten to Grade 11 who are experiencing temporary financial difficulties are encouraged to apply for a bridging bursary, administered by Apple Financial Services, using this weblink:

https://www.applefinancialservices.ca/instructions/to_apply

Q. Are all the field trip costs included in my fees?

A. Since September 2020, field trips costs are included in tuition fees. (Please note that Travel Studies and band fees are optional programs and are in addition to tuition.) Given the inability to hold fieldtrips in the 2020-21 school year, a field trip credit was processed for each student in May 2021. Field trip costs continue to be included in tuition fees.

Q. We have three children at CFIS. Does this entitle our family to a discount?

A. CFIS offers a 10% tuition fee discount for a family's third child, and a 15% discount for a fourth child starting in Kindergarten.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Executive Assistant Karen Nesbitt at knesbitt@cfis.com. She will forward your questions to the appropriate respondent.