



# Flexible Tuition Questions and Answers

We offer discounted tuition through our Flexible Tuition program to better provide families with the resources necessary to access a Gateway education. Gateway's Board of Trustees currently designates up to 15% of the school's annual operating budget to fund our Flexible Tuition Program and approximately one in four families receive a discount.

## **How much will my tuition be?**

We expect families to make their child's education a financial priority and thus pay as much as they are able. Flexible Tuition amounts vary depending on how many families qualify for a discount and how much money the Board allocates to the Flexible Tuition program. To serve as many families as possible, we're able to offer a discount of up to 50% of tuition.

## **Will applying for Flexible Tuition affect my admissions application?**

No. Admission decisions are blind and independent of a family's financial situation. Flexible Tuition applications and determinations have no bearing on admittance.

## **How do I apply for Flexible Tuition?**

Gateway School uses the [Financial Aid for School Tuition \(FAST\)](#) system to determine eligibility for Flexible Tuition.

## **What documents and information are required to complete the FAST application?**

It is the family's responsibility to ensure that all required information and documents are submitted on time. Failure to provide the required documentation may delay or alter the tuition determination.

To complete the FAST application, please be prepared to provide the following information:

### IRS Federal and State Forms

- W-2 wage and tax statements
- Most recent year Federal 1040 or 1040A tax return\*
- Most recent year State tax return\*
- Copies of all supporting tax schedules
- Business – Schedule C or C-EZ (Form 1040)
- Rental Property – Schedule E (Form 1040)

- S Corporation/Partnership/LLC – Schedule E, Form 1120 S, and Schedule K-1
- Trusts – Schedule K-1

*\* If filing for an extension, provide Form 4868*

#### Family Situations - as necessary

- Divorce Decree including any binding financial decisions
- Custody Agreement
- Information regarding financial contributions to a family's household income from grandparents/step-parents, other family members, or adults contributing to family expenses.

#### Household information

- Year-end mortgage statement
- Bank statements
- Brokerage statements
- Rental Agreement
- Insurance costs for home, life, auto, and health (annual amount)
- Utility expenses (annual amount)
- Medical expenses (annual amount: may require follow-up documentation)
- Retirement account information (amount)

It is important to submit the FAST application (including all required documents) completely and accurately as Flexible Tuition awards are based on documented need and the availability of funds. It is offered on a first-come, first-served basis and priority is given to currently enrolled families.

#### **What factors does FAST consider when evaluating an application?**

Many factors, including family income, assets and liabilities, number of children in tuition-charging schools, living expenses, and each family's unique circumstances.

We expect that each family will make reasonable measures of economy regarding the family budget to maximize the tuition they can pay.

#### **Will I qualify for Flexible Tuition?**

In general, families with an annual income greater than \$200,000 do not qualify, however, there may be extenuating circumstances as each family's situation is different. When deciding whether or not to apply for Flexible Tuition, we ask that you take into account all available financial resources to meet the cost of a Gateway education and give careful thought to the maximum amount of tuition that you can afford.

#### **What if I am divorced/separated/remarried/living with someone?**

The school considers the resources of all household adults in making tuition determinations. Parents/Guardians with joint custody agreements should work together to complete the FAST application.

**Are my records confidential?**

The Flexible Tuition Committee maintains strict confidentiality regarding family records and only those directly involved in the decision and administration of Flexible Tuition have access to the information. Social security numbers may be redacted on any forms uploaded.

**When will I hear about my tuition determination?**

Gateway School will contact families who have completed their application and submitted all required documents within two weeks of submitting your FAST application.

**Who do I contact with questions?**

For technical help with the FAST application and to verify that documents were received:  
Contact FAST: [help@ismfast.com](mailto:help@ismfast.com) or 877-326-FAST (3278)

For general questions contact Admissions and Enrollment Manager Cindy Jones  
([cindy.jones@gatewaysc.org](mailto:cindy.jones@gatewaysc.org))

**Use this link to apply for Flexible Tuition:**

[Financial Aid for School Tuition \(FAST\)](#)