

# THE HALL



## Skyuka Hall Financial Aid Policies & Procedures

### *Our mission:*

Skyuka Hall is dedicated to providing individualized learning experiences within a community that enables students with learning differences to develop academically, physically, spiritually, and socially with **confidence, courage, and conviction.**

### **Financial Aid Policy**

Admission to Skyuka Hall is open to all eligible applicants. Skyuka Hall is an independent, nonprofit, coeducational institution. Skyuka Hall is a Category III, K-12 college preparatory school that is accredited by the Southern Association of Independent Schools and Cognia (formerly AdvancEd) and is the only school in the Chattanooga area exclusively serving students with learning differences.

*Skyuka Hall does not discriminate in its educational and employment policies on the basis of color, race, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, transgender status, marital status, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, disability, age, socioeconomic status, or military or veteran status.*

Discrimination and/or harassment of any kind is prohibited and not representative of Skyuka Hall's values.

Skyuka Hall's financial aid program provides need-based aid to assist qualifying families who cannot meet the full cost of tuition. Financial aid awards are considered based on a family's demonstrated need and the availability of school funds. Financial aid decisions are made independent of admission decisions.

Skyuka Hall adheres to all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations, including antitrust laws and those that require nondiscriminatory practice in administering its financial aid policies.

Skyuka Hall operates within the context of both short- and long-range financial aid budget and policy goals and uses objective research to measure the effectiveness of its progress toward its goals and communicates the outcomes to its constituents as appropriate.

Skyuka Hall determines eligibility for admission without regard to a student's application for financial aid and commits to providing financial aid dollars to applicants who demonstrate that their family resources are insufficient to meet all or part of the total educational costs and will continue to provide support to students as long as they demonstrate financial need.

Skyuka Hall maintains the same standards of behavior and academic performance for recipients of financial aid as it does for nonrecipients.

Skyuka Hall partners with Blackbaud Financial Aid, whose procedures ensure a fair, consistent, and equitable assessment of each family's ability to contribute toward educational expenses.

Skyuka Hall makes and communicates financial aid decisions in a manner that allows families to make timely, careful, and fully informed enrollment decisions.

Skyuka Hall safeguards the confidentiality of financial aid applications, records, and decisions while respecting the right of each family to discuss its own financial aid outcomes in an appropriate manner.

Diversity at Skyuka Hall reflects a range of learning profiles as well as racial, religious, cultural, socioeconomic, educational, and social backgrounds within our student population.

To that end, we recognize that each student brings an element of diversity as a unique learner. Every Skyuka Hall student has strengths and talents in addition to areas where they need support. We actively pursue diversity and maintain an inclusive philosophy toward all students, faculty, and staff.

*Skyuka Hall does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, or ethnicity.*

Adopted from NAIS Principles of Good Practice, 2023

## **Financial Aid Procedures**

Skyuka Hall uses the Blackbaud Financial Aid platform, which assists in determining a family's demonstrated need. The purpose of BBFA is to establish an equitable and consistent approach to the distribution of funds for independent schools throughout the United States. Schools using BBFA rely upon a standard methodology to assess the financial strength of a family, that is, the resources available to contribute toward a child's educational expenses.

Families submit detailed financial information to BBFA which in turn processes the information according to established standards and procedures. Families are required to submit income and tax information for all parents, step-parents, and guardians, including, but not limited to, all W2s, 1040s, Schedule C, K-1, and verification of alimony and/or child support paid and received. A family's financial situation will be evaluated, based on these documents and other factors including income, assets, expenses, indebtedness, family size, age of parent/guardians, and the number of children attending tuition-charging schools. Families may request special consideration for events such as the care of an aging relative or disabled family member.

BBFA considers these factors and provides every family with a living allowance based upon family size. This allowance protects a certain amount of income after a variety of expenses are already subtracted from a family's income. This process helps determine a family's discretionary income. BBFA suggests a family's contribution for education using a portion of this discretionary income. The more discretionary income a family has, the higher the family's contribution, or ability to pay.

Once the financial aid application is complete with all required documents, the Skyuka Hall finance committee evaluates the suggested contribution as determined by BBFA as well as any special circumstances the family asks to be considered. The allowance of special circumstances rests solely with the finance committee. Responsibility for all financial aid awards rests solely with Skyuka Hall School.

Financial aid awards will only be applied to a family's enrolment contract if the financial aid application and required documentation are complete and submitted in BBFA. At the discretion of the finance committee, Skyuka Hall may apply contingent financial aid awards, which are subject to verification of the student's application and documentation, to enrollment contracts under special circumstances. Contingent awards are subject to change or cancellation should a family fail to complete their application or if BBFA determines that the family's contribution warrants a change. Contingent awards are valid for 30 days; if a family fails to complete their application and provide all required documentation within this time frame, the award will be removed and the family will be responsible for full tuition for the year.

Financial aid awards are applied across both semesters, or the award will be prorated should a student enroll mid-year. Awards are contingent on a family maintaining compliance with the Skyuka Hall enrollment contract, tuition payment agreement, or other agreements in place. Families must apply for financial aid each year they wish to be considered, and must continue to show demonstrated need. Awards are not guaranteed to remain the same throughout a student's enrollment, and there is no guarantee that the award will be increased in the future. Receipt of financial aid in prior years is not considered when determining a family's demonstrated need and financial aid eligibility.

Families are required to pay tuition through Blackbaud Tuition Management, and may choose from the single payment, bi-annual payment, or 10 month payment plans. BBTM charges a \$40 administrative fee each year a parent uses the service as well as a service fee for payments made with Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover credit and debit cards. There is no fee to pay tuition through bank draft.