



# 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 17% of the school's annual operating budget to fund our Flexible Tuition Program with approximately one in three families receiving 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, the Gateway Board of Trustees sets a budget and maximum award for Flexible Tuition each year. Currently, the maximum award is 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?**

To get started, please contact Director of Enrollment and Marketing Kristin Lim at [kristin.lim@gatewaysc.org](mailto:kristin.lim@gatewaysc.org) for our school's unique 4-digit application code. Gateway uses the Clarity application, which typically takes less than 30 minutes to complete. The application is mobile-friendly so you can complete it from anywhere. You are also able to save your progress and return at any time. At the end of the application, there is a \$60 fee to submit.

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

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

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

### IRS Federal and State Forms

- Sign and submit Form 4506-C to give Clarity permission to pull your prior year's tax returns. This means you won't need to upload any of them yourself! Be sure you use

your correct filing status and address for the tax year in question, discrepancies can cause significant delays.

- Submit your past year's W-2 (for all applicable W-2 wage earners) no later than Feb. 7th.
- Business Tax forms if applicable
- Verification of other sources of income

#### Monthly Household Expenses

- Insurance costs for home, life, auto, and health
- Food and clothing
- Transportation
- Utility expenses
- Childcare
- Eldercare
- Student loans

#### Additional Out of Pocket Expenses

- Medical expenses (annual amount, may require follow-up documentation)

#### Assets

- Retirement account balances
- Checking, savings and investment accounts, trust/annuity fund balances, etc.
- Real estate
- Vehicles, boats, etc.
- Miscellaneous assets

Additional documentation may be required after an application has been submitted if applicable

- 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.

It is important to submit the Clarity application 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 with priority given to currently enrolled families.

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

Many factors are used in making Flexible Tuition determinations 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 \$250,000 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 households and adults in making tuition determinations. Any adult contributing to the household income and/or expenses must be included on the application. Parents/Guardians with joint custody agreements will each complete their portion of the Clarity 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. In two household situations, each household will only have access to their own data.

**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 Clarity application.

**Who do I contact with questions?**

For technical help with the Clarity application and to verify that documents were received, contact Clarity: [support@clarityapp.com](mailto:support@clarityapp.com) or (206) 210-3752

Family Application Guide: <https://clarityschools.com/library/family-application-guide/>

Application Quick Reference Guide: <https://clarityschools.com/library/quick-reference-guide/>

SPANISH Family App Guide: <https://clarityschools.com/library/spanish-family-application-guide/>

SPANISH App Quick Ref Guide: <https://clarityschools.com/library/spanish-quick-reference-guide/>

For general questions contact Director of Enrollment and Marketing Kristin Lim  
([kristin.lim@gatewaysc.org](mailto:kristin.lim@gatewaysc.org))

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

[Clarity Application](#)