



Financial Aid Policy and Guidelines

The purpose of Savannah Country Day's need-based financial aid program is to support the mission of the School and our commitment to being a diverse and inclusive community, supporting qualified students who could not otherwise afford to attend.

Important Dates

Financial Aid Deadlines:

- Current Families: December 1, 2024
- New Families: January 15, 2025, or concurrent with the application for admission.

Financial Aid Award Notifications:

- Current Families: February 2, 2025, or prior to the publication of re-enrollment contracts.
- New Families: Concurrent with or within one week of an admissions decision.

Financial Aid Policy

Financial aid decisions are determined by the Savannah Country Day Financial Aid Committee through an analysis of each family's complete financial situation. Please note:

- Savannah Country Day does not discriminate in the administration of its financial aid policies due to race, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender, age, or sexual orientation.
- Savannah Country Day maintains confidentiality and expects the same of parents (and/or guardians). A breach of confidentiality may result in the withdrawal of a financial aid award.
- Savannah Country Day believes it is first and foremost the family's responsibility to pay for education and expects every family to put a priority on independent school education as a family expense.
- Parents are expected to have a form of income and personal lifestyle choices are taken into consideration during the analysis.
- Admission decisions are independent of the ability to pay and/or the need for financial aid.
- If the gap between the parent's stated ability to pay and the School's available financial aid is deemed too significant, the School may not grant an award. Financial Aid grants are for tuition only. Families are expected to review additional fees as stated in the contract. It is recommended that all families new to Savannah Country Day and receiving financial assistance set up an in-person meeting with the Director of Financial Aid to review all financial obligations prior to enrolling their student.
- Financial aid will not be calculated or granted to those students with outstanding balances of tuition and/or fees.
- Savannah Country Day reserves the right to adjust or withdraw financial aid at any time if discrepancies in financial information provided are found. Awards are granted based on the accurate filing of a Parents' Financial Statement (PFS) through Clarity and tax returns. If information contained in the tax return is inconsistent to the PFS report an award may be adjusted at that time.
- The Financial Aid Committee exercises discretion in evaluating applications and making awards in order to achieve the school's overall enrollment goals. In the event that the total financial aid need exceeds available funds, applicants will be considered in the following order:
 - Current financial aid recipients
 - Current students new to financial aid
 - Current financial aid recipients needing a significant increase

- o New students
- Financial aid amounts awarded are not negotiable.

Applying for Financial Aid

Savannah Country Day uses Clarity for the collection and initial evaluation of financial data. Please use the [Clarity financial aid application](#). (Please note that Clarity charges a \$60 fee to process an application.)

- Requesting families must adhere to all stated deadlines and policies of the School and Clarity and must reapply each year. Financial need is evaluated on a yearly basis and awards are granted based on demonstrated need.
- It is the responsibility of the family to ensure their application is complete and in a "Good" status per Clarity and that all required documents have been uploaded to the Clarity website by the stated deadline. *Please note - individual tax returns (1040) will be uploaded directly to Clarity from the IRS but individual family situations may require additional documentation.*
- It is expected that both parents are employed. If a parent provides documentation that he/she is disabled, or caring for a child under the age of five, this policy may be waived. If a parent chooses not to work, an annual salary \$30,000 will be added to income calculations.
- If a parent is self-employed, owns a business and does not have income or draw a salary, Savannah Country Day may request a written explanation. Self-employed/business owners will be required to submit their business tax returns and/or most recent financial statements. Savannah Country Day reserves the right to request any additional information deemed necessary to make a complete assessment of need.
- Financial aid funds are limited and Savannah Country Day is under no obligation to provide funding for late or incomplete applications from currently enrolled students.
- In the event of divorce, separation, remarriage, or unmarried parents:
 - o Assets of both natural parents are considered.
 - o Savannah Country Day requires each parent complete a separate financial aid application.
 - o If either parent has remarried, assets and income of the stepparent may be considered.
 - o Savannah Country Day will not be bound by separation or divorce agreements or by the assertion that one parent is unwilling to pay.
 - o It is the responsibility of one parent to encourage the other parent to complete the financial aid forms. It is not the responsibility of SCDS to mediate the application process between the two parties.
- When an award is granted based on a single parent Savannah Country Day will require the completion of a single parent affirmation form.
- If a family believes that the financial aid awarded is insufficient to meet its needs, they may request reconsideration of a grant in writing to the Director of Financial Aid with an explanation of information different than what was originally submitted or an extenuating circumstance. The request may be taken back to the Financial Aid Committee for further review.

Savannah Country Day retains the right to change these guidelines and policy at any time at its sole discretion without notification thereof.

September 2024