Financial Aid at St . Stephen's Episcopal School
New Students: Instructions and Frequently Asked Questions

How are financial aid awards determined at St. Stephen's?

St. Stephen's awards aid to families who show financial need, which is defined as the difference between the child's educational expenses and the family's financial resources. The school uses the methodology established by Clarity, our financial aid application provider, in determining family financial resources.
Clarity balances many factors in recommending awards, such as:

- Parents' and stepparents' assets
- Incomes and living costs
- Family size and the number of children matriculating in tuition-paying schools
- Income potential of a non-working spouse without young children
- Depreciation and most investment and business losses

After receiving the Clarity award recommendation, St. Stephen's uses the information as a guide in determining each family's financial award package.

What kind of financial aid is available from St. Stephen's?

St. Stephen's seeks to achieve an economically diverse student body through financial assistance. In the 2024-2025 school year, 22 percent of the student body received over 5.8 million dollars in financial assistance awards ranging from $1,750 to over $75,000. These awards aided families with annual incomes ranging from below $50,000 to over $200,000.
Families pay tuition in full on June 15 or may opt to enroll in a payment plan. Enrolling in a payment plan incurs a $50 fee and will require the purchase of the Dewer Tuition Refund Plan (www.tuitionrefundplan.com). The payment plan allows families to spread out the cost of attendance over 3 (August, November, February) or 10 (August - May) payments beginning in August and ending in May.

How do I apply for need-based financial aid?

To be considered for a financial aid award, families must complete the online Clarity application by January 20, 2025. The online application is available here. (https://auth.clarityapp.com/en/signup/). Through this website you will create a Clarity account, review the process, and submit the form.
The Clarity application fee is $60. Clarity uses the income and asset information in the financial aid application itself to assess the family situation and automatically applies a waiver if the family qualifies.
From your Clarity portal you can access your application, review any additional document requirements, manage and upload documents, and view your student(s) application status(es).

What if I apply for admission after the Jan. 20 priority deadline and I am also interested in applying for financial aid?

We encourage any student who applies to St. Stephen's after the January 20th priority deadline to complete the admission and financial aid applications as soon as possible. Admission decisions are then made on a space available basis and financial aid awards are made on a money available basis.

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When will I be notified of an award decision if I submitted my financial aid materials by January 20, 2025? What if I submit my financial aid materials after January 20th?

Families who have a complete financial aid application on January 20, 2025 will receive a financial aid decision before a deposit will be required. For financial aid applications that are completed after the priority deadline of January 20, 2025, decisions will be made on a funds available basis.

Which St. Stephen's fees are considered when determining financial aid awards?

The following fees will be considered (but may not be fully funded) in considering the financial aid award: tuition, facilities use fee, food service fee (required for all students), private fine arts lessons, boarding supplement, international student fee and English support classes (may be required depending on English language placement), and special program fees (Soccer Academy or Theatre Focus programs, if applicable). **The cost of textbooks and a required laptop computer are not considered in the financial aid award and families must plan to pay those expenses (est. $400 - $800 per year for books). Limited funds may be available to assist with books and laptops.**

Will applying for financial aid affect my child's chances for admission?

The Admission Committee reviews each admission application independent of the financial aid process. Due to limits in the financial aid budget there are times we will accept a student for admission and then place them in our financial aid wait pool. If parents are able to find the necessary resources they may enroll their child. Also, if money later becomes available, the student may receive aid from St. Stephen's.

Can I meet with an Admission Director in regard to my financial aid application and/or award?

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the financial aid application process contact Charlotte Burke in the Office of Admission (512-327-1213 ex. 208 or cburke@sstx.org). Also, the parent interview is a great opportunity for parents to ask questions regarding the financial aid process. We ask that appointments with Lawrence Sampleton, Associate Head of School for Enrollment Management & Financial Aid, regarding financial aid not be scheduled until after you have received your financial aid decision letter.

Do I need to reapply for financial aid each year?

Yes. Since financial situations can change from year to year, families must complete an updated Clarity application each year. Unless a major shift in finances occurs, you can expect to receive a similar award each year (including adjustments for tuition increases).

Special Instructions for International Families:

Families who do not live in the U.S. and are applying for financial assistance must fill out the Clarity application to the best of their ability including the Non-US Tax Filer Verification upload. If you live in Canada, you will be prompted to upload your T1, T4 and Notice of Assessment. Please contact Charlotte Burke at cburke@sstx.org to request an international student financial aid profile form.

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HELPFUL TIPS

Communication is the key. Call or email the Office of Admission at your earliest convenience if you have any questions or concerns. Waiting until the last minute may affect the amount of your award.

Families with extenuating or special circumstances have the opportunity to write about those in the Clarity application.

A Clarity Quick Reference Guide, the Clarity Financial Application Guide, and links to Clarity webinars can be found on our Tuition and Financial Aid web page.

DATES & DEADLINES

DECEMBER 7

Affordability Workshop. Learn about the financial aid process and how to access and complete the online forms.

JANUARY 20

Priority Deadline to complete the admission application process.
Priority Deadline to complete Clarity application for financial assistance.

BY MARCH 10

Notification of 1st round admission decisions for families who met the priority deadlines for Admission and Financial Aid. Financial Aid awards will be sent by the end of the month.

Clarity Website: www.clarityapp.com/sign-up

St. Stephen's Episcopal School
re: Financial Aid
6500 St. Stephen's Dr.
Austin, TX 78746

If you have any questions regarding the completion of your financial aid application please contact the Office of Admission. (512) 327-1213 ex. 208 / cburke@sstx.org