Our Lady of Good Counsel High School Tuition Assistance Policy
2026-2027

Philosophy
Good Counsel offers an unparalleled educational experience and exceptional value among private schools in the DMV area, and we encourage you to apply for tuition assistance. We believe parents and guardians are primarily responsible for funding their student's education. Only after available parental resources have been examined will the school offer tuition assistance. The tuition assistance application process aims to garner a comprehensive understanding of all financial resources available to a given applicant.

To provide a uniform and objective evaluation of applications, Good Counsel utilizes a third party (currently FACTS - Nelnet tuition services) for the collection and initial evaluation of financial data. FACTS does not decide whether tuition assistance will be given or how much to give. FACTS provides a need-based financial analysis service. Each applicant's family must complete an application form to be submitted to FACTS with the required supporting documents and processing fee. The Tuition Assistance Committee will use FACTS and related information to determine a family's capacity to pay tuition.

We expect parents to file income taxes on time. Taxes must be completed, signed, filed with the IRS, and copies provided to FACTS before applications are considered.

Non-Discrimination Statement
Good Counsel seeks diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of school life and does not discriminate in the administration of its tuition assistance policies due to race, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender, gender identity, age, or sexual orientation.

Core Values of Good Counsel's Tuition Assistance Program

Confidentiality

Strict confidentiality and sensitivity to each family's needs are maintained in Good Counsel's tuition assistance process, and we expect the same from parents and guardians. A breach of confidentiality may result in withdrawing a tuition assistance award. All documents and records received by FACTS and shared with Good Counsel are kept confidential within the Tuition Assistance Committee. Applications and documentation are not accessible by other families or Good Counsel faculty or staff. FACTS securely stores confidential documents. The identities of our students who receive tuition assistance are held in confidence. Beyond the Chief Enrollment Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Accounting Manager, and the Executive Director of Enrollment Management, only the President and select members of the Business Office (Student Billing) are made aware of a student's financial status.

Efficiency

Good Counsel values keeping the tuition assistance application and renewal processes as efficient and clear as possible. Acknowledging that applying for tuition assistance can be intimidating and time-consuming, the Admissions and Business Offices serve as a resource to help navigate the process.

Duration of Commitment

Families must apply for tuition assistance by the published deadline every year. Families who miss the application deadline risk losing tuition assistance. The school makes every effort to help fund students returning to Good Counsel as long as they continue to demonstrate the need for tuition assistance and remain in good academic and disciplinary standing.

Guiding Principles in Awarding Tuition Assistance

The availability of tuition assistance, the number of qualified applicants, and overall budgetary constraints influence tuition assistance decisions.

Expectations of Two Working Parents

Good Counsel expects that both parents will contribute to the cost of their child's education and will not make an award equal to or exceeding 100% of the cost of tuition. All parents applying for tuition assistance must be working if they are physically able to do so. If a parent provides documentation that he/she is disabled or caring for a child under five, this policy may be waived. Good Counsel may adjust to increase the family's income for FACTS computation purposes if only one parent works.

Separated/Divorced or Remarriage Families

Good Counsel considers the financial means of all parents and guardians (custodial and non-custodial) involved in the student's life. If either parent has remarried, the assets and income of the stepparent will be considered. Non-custodial parents must complete their confidential FACTS application (one per household). If the non-custodial parent shows no contact or involvement with the student, Good Counsel requires written documentation to substantiate this circumstance. This letter should come from a third party (school administrator, religious official, program coordinator, etc.). If at any point Good Counsel is made aware of an additional custodial parent, the school reserves the right to reassess the level of tuition assistance provided to a family. The Tuition Assistance Committee works hard to consider all parents or guardians involved and awards assistance accordingly. Good Counsel is not bound by separation or divorce agreements or the assertion that one parent or step-parent has disclaimed responsibility for a child's educational expenses.

Business/Farm Owners

Business and farm owners must submit all tax schedules and forms they submit to the IRS. The School may also ask for cash flow statements, balance sheets, and other relevant information about the business.

Loss of Job

Good Counsel is sympathetic to the reality that parents may be unemployed. These situations are considered carefully and may require further discussions with the family before making or adjusting an appropriate tuition assistance award. Such situations do require formal documentation and ongoing conversations.

Parents Returning to School

Although Good Counsel recognizes a parental decision to return to school for professional reasons, the school also believes it is a family choice. Based on our budgetary constraints, Good Counsel cannot subsidize this decision for any family. Good Counsel expects both parents to be working whenever physically possible.

Child Support

Good Counsel considers all child support dollars from all sources when calculating tuition assistance.

Home Equity

Good Counsel will consider a portion of home equity when calculating tuition assistance. Generally, the school subscribes to the FACTS formula for considering these assets.

Understanding Other Sources of Income

Although Good Counsel does not expect other sources to contribute to a student's tuition (grandparents, relatives, foundations, employer tuition remission) if the school is aware of such funding, it feels comfortable accounting for it in its grant calculations. Good Counsel also expects siblings attending other tuition-charging schools to apply for and receive tuition assistance from those institutions. In addition, the Tuition Assistance Committee likes to know what types of tuition assistance an applicant has received in the past and what types of tuition assistance siblings expect to receive for the upcoming year. This information helps the Committee fully understand the family's ability to contribute to education and protects Good Counsel from subsidizing the education expenses of other members of the same family. Good Counsel does not take into consideration an applicant's lifestyle choices. Our priority is to award tuition assistance to families that demonstrate financial need.

Unusual Expenses and Debt

The Tuition Assistance Committee carefully reviews all unusual expenses and debts listed by a family in a given year. Often costs and debts may require substantiation through follow-up contact or documentation. Good Counsel tries to be reasonable and always wants to understand the context of a family's situation but uses professional judgment in addressing what the School will and will not consider as valid forms of expense, debt, or expenditure.

Stacking Tuition Assistance Awards

Students who qualify for merit or arts scholarships may also receive need-based tuition assistance. Tuition assistance is awarded separately from merit scholarships.

Appeals

Tuition Assistance amounts awarded are not negotiable. Good Counsel only considers appeals if a family wishes to provide relevant, new information after submitting the application.

Affordability

Good Counsel requires all parents to state in their tuition assistance application the amount they are able to pay for tuition. Sometimes, parents erroneously interpret this as an invitation to negotiate, which it is not. As such, it is important for all applicants to state what they can truly afford if they prioritize paying tuition. The School believes that every family, regardless of economic standing, should demonstrate a commitment to their student's education at Good Counsel by contributing toward the cost of that education. If the gap between the parent's stated ability to pay and the school's available tuition assistance is deemed too significant, the school may waitlist an applicant who qualifies for admission if the school cannot meet their demonstrated need.

Disqualification

Good Counsel is committed to including tuition assistance as an integral and important component of each year's operating budget. However, we cannot guarantee that the school will meet applicants' full/complete financial needs. This applies particularly to applicants who do not submit required application materials or additional documentation, do not meet the stated deadline, or have an outstanding balance with the Business Office. Any falsification of documentation can also lead to disqualification or adjustment to tuition assistance awards. Good Counsel seeks to verify all financial information provided to the school independently.

Upon the student's withdrawal from Good Counsel for any reason, the school will prorate tuition assistance awards based on the percentage of net tuition paid by the recipient family as of the withdrawal date. Consequently, families may forfeit some or all of the tuition assistance award upon the student's withdrawal. Families must pay the remaining tuition balance in order to secure the release of their student's official transcript.

An Important Note

Tuition Assistance awards are contingent upon Good Counsel receiving all required documents and are not finalized until all documents are received and verified. All tuition assistance awards are confidential and based on an individual family's personal financial information. Awards should not be discussed with other school families.

The Committee exercises discretion in evaluating applications and making awards to achieve the school's overall enrollment goals. If the total tuition assistance needed exceeds available funds, applicants will be considered in the following order:

- *Current tuition assistance recipients*
- *Current students new to tuition assistance*
- *New students*
- *Current tuition assistance recipients who need a significant increase*

Our Lady of Good Counsel High School retains the right to change these guidelines at any time at its sole discretion without notification.