Frequently Asked Questions About Flexible Tuition

At Presidio Hill School, we understand that many families find it challenging to pay independent school tuition. To make our school as accessible as possible, we continue to investigate alternative tuition structures and encourage our families to explore other options as well.

We believe the value of a PHS education far exceeds the considerable financial commitment it requires and understand that some families will need a tuition more aligned with their household circumstances. We are committed to helping our families find the resources to make their child's attendance a reality. As part of our commitment to socio-economic diversity, 38% of our student body received flexible tuition in 2026-2027.

What is flexible tuition?

Flexible tuition, sometimes called indexed tuition, financial aid, or tuition assistance, is a reduction in tuition for families who need it. Simply put, need is defined as the difference between the school's tuition and what the family can afford. Flexible tuition at Presidio Hill School is given in the form of offsets that do not need to be repaid. Flexible tuition comes from the school's annual operating budget, which is provided through tuition revenue and fundraising.

How do I decide whether to apply for flexible tuition? How much will I have to pay?

Since eligibility is based on many factors, it is impossible to know how much you will pay without a thorough review of your finances. Family assets, the number of children in tuition-charging schools, and many other factors affect how much you pay. You should apply if you question whether you can pay all the costs yourself. The following statistics can offer some insight into the range of circumstances for families who pay flexible tuition.

$117,530	Average gross income (one child in tuition-paying school)
$199,233	Average gross income (two children in tuition-paying schools)
$145,067	Median income all applicant families for 2026-2027
$34,407	Average PHS 2026-2027 offset
$11,486	Average annual family payment for those paying a flexible tuition

We expect that families who begin at PHS paying the full tuition will continue to do so unless there is a significant change in family finances.

How are flexible tuition decisions made?

Decisions are made by a committee. The committee includes the Head of School, the Director of Finance and the Director of Admission & Flexible Tuition, who oversees the committee. The committee follows the Principles of Good Practice for Financial Aid of

the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). Great effort is made to treat each application with the respect, confidentiality, and thoroughness that it deserves.

To determine the fairest and most equitable family payment, Presidio Hill School, along with a large majority of San Francisco Independent Schools, uses Clarity, a third-party provider of excellent and secure financial analysis. This system analyzes the information you provide in the Clarity application and computes a suggested tuition level. Each school then amends this recommendation in accordance with its own internal policies. This may include additional factors not calculated in the methodology, such as cost of living and special circumstances. More information about these policies is available in the document Determining Flexible Tuition at Presidio Hill School.

If I receive flexible tuition, do I have to reapply each year?

Yes. Family finances can change from year to year and re-applying ensures that we distribute the school's budget equitably each year. Only applications that are received by the required deadlines will be considered.

In a two-parent household, must both parents work to be eligible for flexible tuition?

In general, yes, unless one parent is home with children who are too young for school or is caring for a disabled or elderly family member full time. Additionally, we may consider offsetting tuition for families where one parent is in transition back to the workforce or in school. However, we will impute an additional amount to your family's income equation to account for this.

Does Presidio Hill School expect stepparents, domestic partners, ex-spouses, or ex-domestic partners to be part of my application for flexible tuition?

Yes, since this type of situation generally changes your family's financial picture. We ask all parenting adults to complete the application to provide a realistic picture of family resources. We are also aware that circumstances differ widely, so please contact the office if some or all information cannot be provided, or if you have additional questions.

Does everyone who qualifies for flexible tuition receive it?

No. Like most schools, we have more qualified applicants than we have money in the budget. Some families will be placed on a flexible tuition waiting list. As funds become available, all students on the list will be considered equally, and we will offer offsets according to the enrollment needs of the school.

Is it possible to appeal our flexible tuition decision?

Yes. If you feel that you have forgotten or not appropriately clarified specific financial information, or if you have new information to communicate, please submit it in writing to the Flexible Tuition Committee for reconsideration via kelly@presidiohill.org

When are decisions made?

If the application is submitted on time, returning families will receive a flexible tuition decision with their re-enrollment agreement in February 2027. New families will receive a flexible tuition decision with their acceptance mailed in March 2027.

English is not my first language, I need help understanding the process, what do I do?

Please let Kelly know that you may need a translation or explanation in another language. We will do our best to find someone in our community to clarify information. 415-213-8604 or by email at kelly@presidiohill.org