Baylor School
Financial Aid
Financial Aid Policies

Baylor's Philosophy

- Baylor School is committed to seeking diversity within its community by providing educational opportunities to deserving students regardless of their socio-economic background.
- At Baylor, we believe families should expect to contribute to their child's educational costs at the highest possible level given their economic situation.
- As stated in the NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools) Principals of Good Practice: "...each family bears the primary responsibility for financing a student's educational costs."

Baylor's Non-Discriminatory Policy

- Baylor School admits students of any race, sex, color, religion, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. Baylor does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, financial aid policies, athletic programs, and other school-administered programs.

Eligibility

- Baylor School's Financial Aid Program provides funding for students enrolled in grades 6 through 12.
- When a student initially enrolls paying full tuition at any grade level, Baylor assumes that the student/family will continue to pay full tuition in subsequent years. However, we recognize that unanticipated and significant changes can arise in a family's life. In that case, the family can apply to the program and must clearly demonstrate in writing a significant, unexpected financial reversal.
- We will make every effort to be helpful in the case of circumstances beyond a family's control (for example, loss of job or unexpected illness), but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to meet the new financial need of families as no pre-existing budget is set aside for such an expense.
- We also recognize that a family may be able to pay full tuition for one child but is unable to do so for an additional child or children applying or enrolled at Baylor. Should such circumstances arise; the family can apply to the program, but there is no guarantee funds will be available.

Financial Aid Priorities

- Students/families presently enrolled and receiving financial aid.
- Students/families that are children of Baylor faculty and staff and qualify for financial aid.
- Students/families presently enrolled but not receiving financial aid that, due to financial circumstances, requires financial aid to continue to be enrolled at Baylor if money is available.
- Students/families newly accepted, including siblings (of currently enrolled students) and legacies, who have equal standing as the rest of the applicant pool for consideration of financial assistance.
- Students/families applying late (if any funds remain available).

Consideration of Financial Aid Application

- The Financial aid and admission processes are separate but occur simultaneously. Admission decisions are not affected by an application for financial assistance.
- There is a meritorious component to the financial aid process which occurs in the evaluation of the candidate for admission to the school, which dictates the order in which the financial aid committee will consider applications for financial aid.
- Students who show more potential or ability in academics/extra-curricular/athletics will be given consideration before students who have less ability or potential as evaluated by the admission committee.
- No one will be denied admission because of his or her financial situation, but, due to our limited resources, your son or daughter could be admitted to Baylor but not receive financial aid.
- Given the limited resources of financial assistance, the school is able on rare occurrences to make changes to financial aid awards based on any other component other than demonstrated need.
- Families enrolling at Baylor should also be aware that it is unlikely they will receive more financial aid than their original award in future years unless they are able to clearly demonstrate in writing a significant, unexpected financial reversal.

Expectations

- Baylor School is a community of learners striving for excellence in all that we do. The school holds high expectations for all students whether they are receiving assistance or not. Thus, it is expected that each financial aid recipient be actively involved in the community, be honorable and positive citizens, and strive to attain the highest academic standards. The Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships reviews each student's record and communicates both any concerns to parents and the possible impact it might have on any future financial assistance.
- The school expects each student to conduct themselves in an honorable and positive way while representing their school and themselves in their personal actions. Any major Discipline or Honor offense will be considered by the financial aid committee when making awards and consideration of awards.
- Each family is expected to submit their financial aid application through Clarity Financial and to manage any required documents for the school through the portal as well.
- Baylor School is fortunate to have benefactors of the school who believe in providing financial assistance to worthy students. In return, Baylor expects the recipients to show appreciation for this educational opportunity by giving back to the school in the form of support for the financial aid program.
- All financial aid awards are confidential agreements between the recipient student/family and the school. We strongly request that information pertaining to these awards/agreements are not discussed in public; any proof of such conversation could result in a loss/change in an award.
- Baylor School also expects that parents will discuss with their children the benefit financial aid is providing for them so they can fully appreciate their education and begin to lay the foundation of supporting and giving back to the financial aid program.

Siblings and Legacies

- Baylor values all families who have siblings enrolled or who are legacies (participating graduates of the school). Unfortunately, we do not have separate funding for these students, and they must be given the same consideration as non-connected families.
- During their admission process and evaluation, siblings and legacies are given special consideration, which does assist these applicants in their order of evaluation by the Financial Aid Committee.
- Students are evaluated on their merits within the context of their class make up; thus, families should not automatically expect an award or the same amount of assistance for each child.

Non-working Parents

- If a parent/guardian chooses not to work, and all children in the household are in grade levels above kindergarten, a minimum salary equal to one day student tuition shall be added into the family income calculations.
- If a returning parent receiving financial aid decides not to work, an amount equal to one full-day tuition will be added to the family's income.
- If a parent is under-employed based on their education and abilities, the school will add up to one day student tuition to a family's income.
- Baylor will consider exceptions to this policy if a parent remains at home to care for pre-school child/children, a child with a disability, a seriously ill child, parent, or grandparent, or for other special circumstances that should be brought to the attention of the Director of Financial Aid and Scholarship.

Divorced or Separated Parents

- Baylor believes that separated or divorced parents retain the obligations to contribute to the education of their children regardless of the guidelines stipulated in a divorce settlement.
- If a custodial parent remarries, Baylor will consider the resources of the stepparent while honoring the obligations the stepparent might have to his/her own children.
- Baylor requires both natural parents to fill out a Clarity application to determine financial aid awards.
- If the non-custodial parent is not involved in a student's life, the custodial parent can submit a letter from a third party (clergy, lawyer, doctor, school official, social worker) that states this fact in lieu of the non-custodial parent submitting his or her financial information.
- Understanding the delicate situation of family dynamics, Baylor evaluates every situation on a consistent case-by-case basis.

Special Situations

- Baylor reserves the right to consider special circumstances in applications for financial aid.
- Cost of living allowances in outlying communities is sometimes considered.
- The potential income of a non-working parent who does not have small children at home may be considered.
- Children enrolled in other tuition-charging schools may be considered.
- Death, serious injury or disability to either parent will be considered.
- A family's lifestyle choices will be considered in evaluating financial need.

Confidentiality

- Baylor adheres to NAIS Principals of Good Practice that protect the confidentiality of financial information provided by families.
- Only Baylor employees who need financial information will be given information relevant to their work.
- Applications and tax forms will be reviewed and retained on a yearly basis.
- The Financial Aid Committee reserves the right to request additional information or forms to determine an award.
- All financial aid awards are confidential agreements between the recipient student/family and the school. We strongly request that information pertaining to these awards/agreements are not discussed in public; any proof of such conversation could result in a loss/change in an award.

Yearly Renewal

- Financial aid is granted on a yearly basis and renewal is not automatic. Subsequent awards will be based on the submission of a current complete financial aid application and support documents. Awards to families are also dependent on the student's satisfactory academic progress, responsible citizenship, the family's commitment to the school, and availability of financial aid funds.
- Students are expected to meet a minimum standard of behavior and academic performance while actively participating in Baylor's programs.
- Families can expect reasonably similar awards from year to year if their financial status has not dramatically changed and their child is meeting the school's expectations.
- Families must apply every year to be considered for financial aid.
- Because of the great demand for financial aid, families who do not meet the deadlines for the process may expect a change in their previous award.
- Because we are limited in the small amount of funding, we have available for re-distribution, families who are not currently receiving financial aid should not have an expectation of receiving assistance just because they qualify for assistance and are currently enrolled in the school.

Financial Aid Agreement

- Parents will receive a formal agreement requiring their signatures to acknowledge acceptance and understanding of the financial aid agreement, policies, and procedures.
- It is critical for all families to read through these policies and procedures to clarify their understanding of our program.
- A financial aid application is not complete until a signed copy of this agreement is uploaded into the family's Clarity account.

Reconsiderations/Appeals Process

- The Financial Aid Committee continues to meet and review requests to reconsider award amounts.
- The Committee will review the family's situation only if a written request and explanation for the request is made. All requests for reconsideration must be submitted by completing the Supplementary Financial Aid form (found on our website under additional documents).
- No request will be given consideration without this written supplementary information.
- The Committee will decide as quickly as possible, and the Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships will communicate the decision to the family.
- Due to the considerable time the Committee spends reviewing applications, it is rare that a decision is reversed unless it is aware of a special situation that occurs after decisions are made.

Financial Aid Committee

- Includes a small group of faculty/administrators whose duties include reviewing applications submitted by families to Clarity.
- Determines operating procedures and timeline for financial aid program.
- Determines the awards to be offered to each family based on availability of funds and students' ability to meet expectations of the school.
- Reviews requests for reconsiderations/appeals.

Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA)

- As a member of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA), the school has guidelines and rules that must be adhered to through its membership which might influence its students.
- Students may not receive assistance more than demonstrated need, as determined by Clarity, and remain eligible for TSSAA sanctioned athletics.
- The school submits information to TSSAA on students in grades 8-12.

Application and Notification Deadlines

- The financial aid application deadline is November 1, 2026. The on-line application is the only way to complete the financial aid application (a link to the site is on our website).
- As part of the Clarity Financial Aid application process, with authorization using the IRS 4506C tax transcript release document, Clarity will pull your 2025 1040 tax return and your 2025 W-2's submitted to the IRS.
- Your 2026 W-2's will be uploaded into your Clarity account in early February 2027.
- Notification for newly admitted day students will be January 30, 2027, with a decision deadline of February 8, 2027.
- Official notification for returning students will be made towards the middle of February 2027.
- Baylor's "rolling" admission process for boarding students allows financial aid decisions to be made when files are complete and if funds remain available.
- Financial aid awards are not disbursed, reserved, or considered until any past balance is cleared through the Business office.
- Families have ten (10) days, or a designated deadline, to accept the offer of assistance. If the school is not notified of acceptance of an award, the funds revert to our financial aid pool to be distributed to other worthy applicants.
- It is understood that if information provided to Clarity or Baylor School is found to be inaccurate, an award is subject to change or possibly withdrawn.

Tax Form Requirements

- The key to completing the document requirement is for the school to have at least two years of tax records for verification.
- By signing the IRS 4506C tax release, Clarity will be able to access your 2025 Form 1040 tax information and submitted 2026 W-2's. You will not be required to upload your 2025 tax information into the Clarity system.
- If you do not have any information for 2025, please upload your 2024 IRS W-2s and Form 1040 into the documents area of your Clarity financial aid application.
- If you are a shareholder in an S Corporation or a partner in a Partnership, we will need copies of your Schedule E, Schedule C, or Schedule K-1 and Form 1065 or Schedule K-1 and Form 1120S for each year depending on your filing. Please upload in the document's sections of the Clarity financial aid application.
- The complete tax information is used for clarification, and verification, and must be submitted before deadlines or prior to the beginning of the school year.
- Financial aid awards are not released until all items, including all tax forms, have been uploaded into your secure Clarity account.