

Financial Aid at St. Stephen's Episcopal School

Returning 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 aid 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 2026-2027 school year, 22 percent of the student body received over 6.6 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 Dewar 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?

St. Stephen's has chosen Clarity as our new financial aid application system. Our goal is to make the financial aid application process as easy as possible for your family. To be considered for a financial aid award, families must complete the online Clarity application by January 20, 2028. The online application is available [here](https://auth.clarityapp.com/en/signup/). (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.

You will find that Clarity offers a streamlined and user-friendly financial aid application process that can take as few as twenty minutes to complete. It is mobile-friendly, so you can complete your application on your phone or tablet! Furthermore, your 1040 and W2 documents from 2024 will be automatically transferred from the IRS when you complete the verification step, so you will no longer need to upload those documents manually.

When will I be notified of an award decision if I submitted my financial aid materials by December 1? What if I submit my financial aid materials after December 1?

Families who have completed the Clarity process by December 1 will receive a financial aid award with their re-enrollment contract.

Financial aid applications that are completed after the priority deadline of December 1 and/or re-enrollment received after February 15 will be reviewed on a funds available basis.

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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 special program fees (Soccer Academy or Theatre Focus programs, if applicable).

The cost of textbooks and a required laptop are not considered in the financial aid award and families must plan to pay that yearly expense (est. \$400 - \$800 per year for books). Limited financial assistance may be available for the laptop.

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 the Office of Admission (512-327-1213 ex. 210 or affordability@sstx.org). 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 financial aid application and submit their current tax returns and W-2 forms 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 affordability@sstx.org to request an international student financial aid profile form.

Helpful tips & Important Dates

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. Keep a complete set of copies of all forms uploaded to Clarity and St. Stephen's Episcopal School.

December 1 - Priority Deadline to complete Clarity application for financial assistance.

FEBRUARY 15 - Re-enrollment contracts and deposits are due for returning students. Families applying for financial aid can either pay the enrollment deposit at this time or select "Pending Financial Aid" deposit payment option to complete the contract.

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.

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