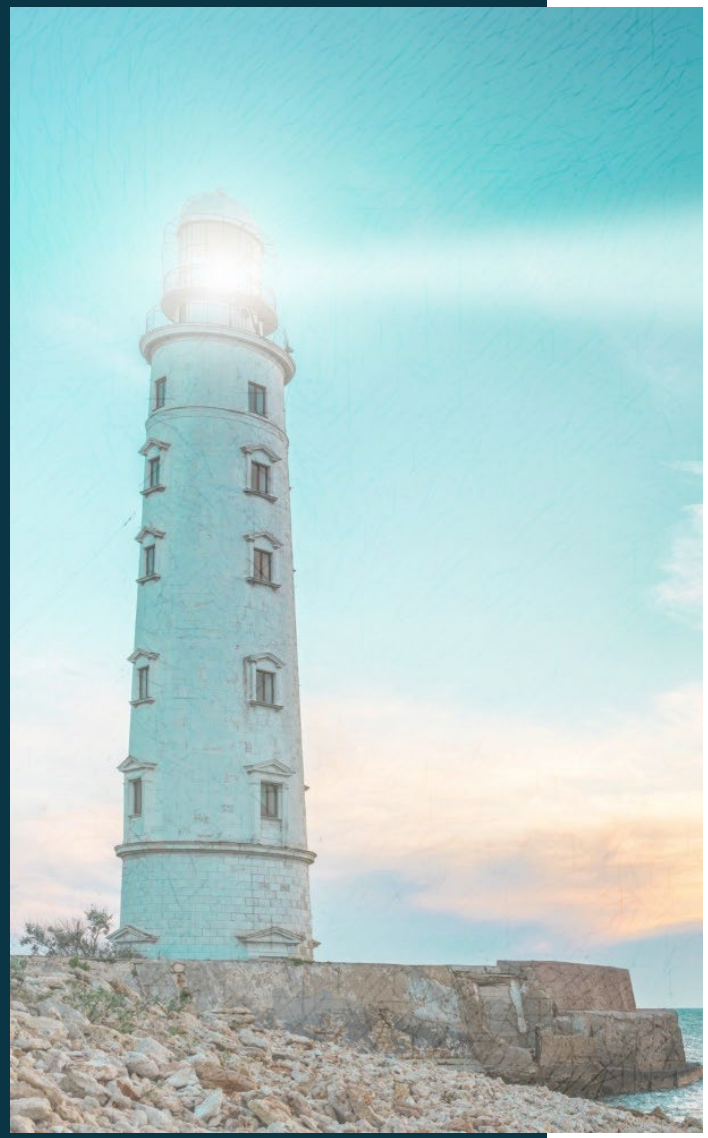
Navigating Financial Aid

What Families Need to Know for the 2027-2028 School Year

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH K-12 PRIVATE AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS.

MISSION ENROLLMENT



Welcome!

- Understanding the basics of financial aid
- Preparing your household budget and documents
- Walk-through of the application process in Clarity
- Common questions, helpful tips, and Q & A

Understanding Financial Aid



A **grant** from the school based on a family's demonstrated financial need.



A **school-specific program**. It is not a federal program. "Independent"



Something a family is **not required to pay back**. It is not a loan.

Know Your Deadlines + Deliverables

EARLY FALL

Start With Visits To School Websites

🔎 Look for **Financial Aid** (sometimes titled *Affording [School Name]*, *Financial Assistance, Tuition Assistance, Flexible Tuition,* or under *Tuition*).

Check For:

- 🗓️ Application deadlines
- 📑 Required documents & submission dates
- 💲 Total cost of enrollment (tuition, fees, trips, testing, etc.)

When Will I Hear About Financial Aid?

- **Timeline** → Varies from school to school.
- **New families** → Grant details usually arrive with your admission offer letter.
- **Current families** → Grant details are typically shared alongside re-enrollment contracts.



School Deadlines Matter!

MISSED DEADLINES

↓

POTENTIAL MISSED FINANCIAL

Think Through Your Family Budget

QUICK STEPS: MONEY IN & MONEY OUT

1. **Download** two consecutive months of bank statements
2. **Create Expense Categories:**
   - Housing
   - Transportation
   - Food
   - Utilities
   - Child(ren) needs (like clothing, sports/fees, tuition)

IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE

- **Be realistic,** be honest with yourself.
- **Prepare for** "other expenses" related to school.
- **Don't forget** summer childcare costs.

RECOMMENDED: USE A BUDGET APP

Some Examples:

- You Need A Budget (ynab.com)
- Rocket Money (rocketmoney.com/)
- PocketGuard (pocketguard.com)

HOPE vs. REALITY

DAILY LIVING	Budget	Actual	Difference
Groceries	$1,200.00	$2,200.00	($1,000.00)
Restaurants	$250.00	$425.00	($175.00)
Clothing	$50.00	$150.00	($100.00)
Cleaning Services	-	-	-
Dry Cleaning	-	-	-
Salon/Barber	$200.00	$285.00	($85.00)
Gym Membership	$120.00	$120.00	-
Total DAILY LIVING	**$1,820.00**	**$3,180.00**	**($1,360.00)**

Keep Calm: Make It a Smooth Process

FILE 2025 TAXES AHEAD OF APPLYING

Make sure you have filed last year's taxes well before applying. The IRS integration with Clarity can pull a transcript from your filed tax return.

GATHER DOCUMENTS

Most recent pay stub, W-2s for all jobs, and typically the Federal Tax Returns for 2025 (last year), plus business taxes (K-1) if applicable.

COMPLETE THE FORMS

You may complete/pay for more than one financial aid application depending on the school(s) you are considering and the platform each uses. Plan accordingly.

Quick Look: How Does It Work?



INCOME

Income
(money coming in)

— minus —

Expenses
(money going out)



ASSETS

Assets
(what you own)

— minus —

Liabilities
(what you owe)



FAMILY MEMBERS

Everyone
who lives in
your home.

Reduce Guesswork & Avoid Common Errors



Use your tax returns as a guide for entering amounts.

Itemize unusual situations and provide good notes.

Avoid double entry of income for business owners.

If remarried, regardless of financial support for the student, include them on the application.

What do you truly think you can afford to pay? Do not put a “0” or full tuition.

*Carefully read the questions related to affordability.

FAQs...

1. How do separated/divorced families apply for aid?
2. What are the expectations around working parents? What if I’m a stay-at-home parent?
3. Do I need to apply every year?

Verification Steps: ID.me and IRS 8821

Making the document collection process secure, accurate, and easy for you.

Verification Overview:



Verify Your Identity (ID.me)

- Complete a quick, one-time check with a government-issued photo ID.
- Ensures the right person is applying and keeps your data safe.

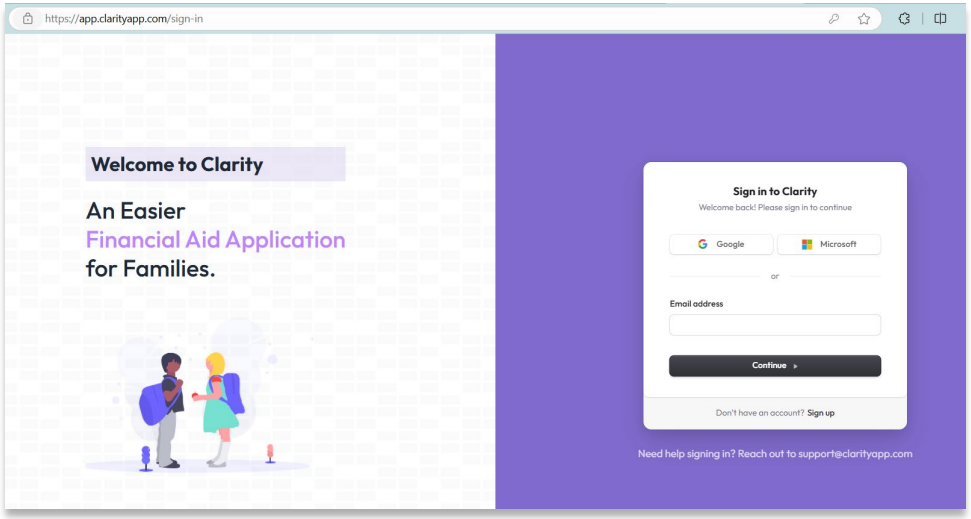


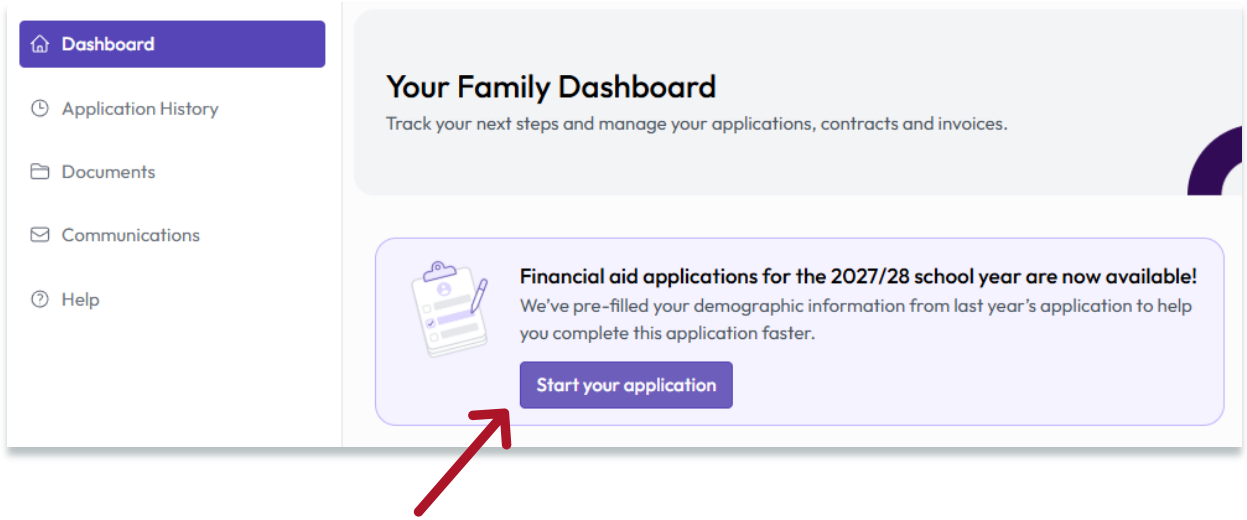
Share Your Tax Info (IRS 8821)

- Authorize a direct pull of your tax transcript(s) from the IRS.
- No uploading tax returns unless requested by the school.

Log into Clarity

https://app.clarityapp.com/sign-in





Applicants vs. Dependents

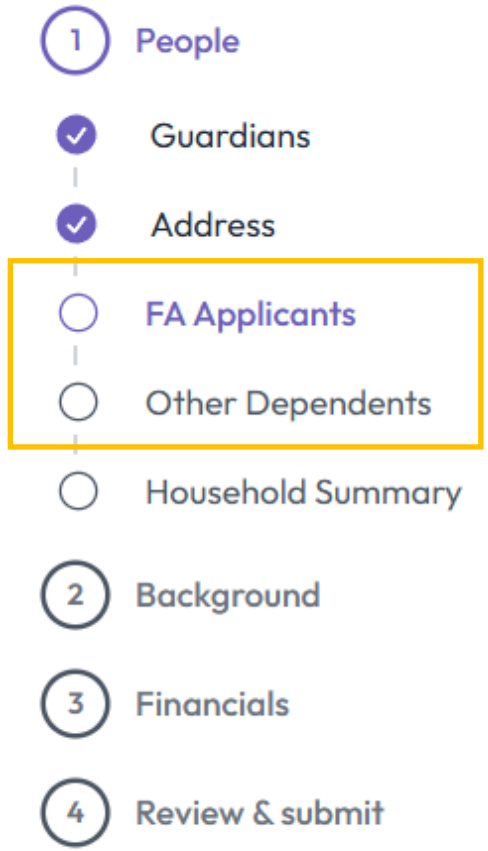
FA Applicants

The child(ren) for whom you are completing the application.

Other Dependents

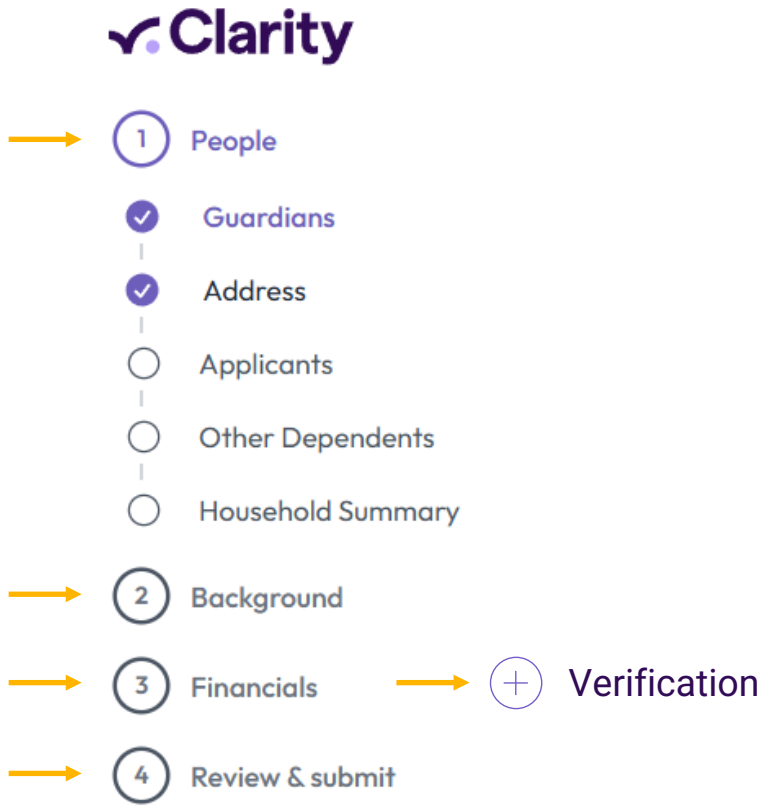
Persons in your household who are not listed under the Parent/Guardian or Student Applicant sections.

Include any family members you may not claim on your tax return as a dependent but supply with 50% or more financial support.

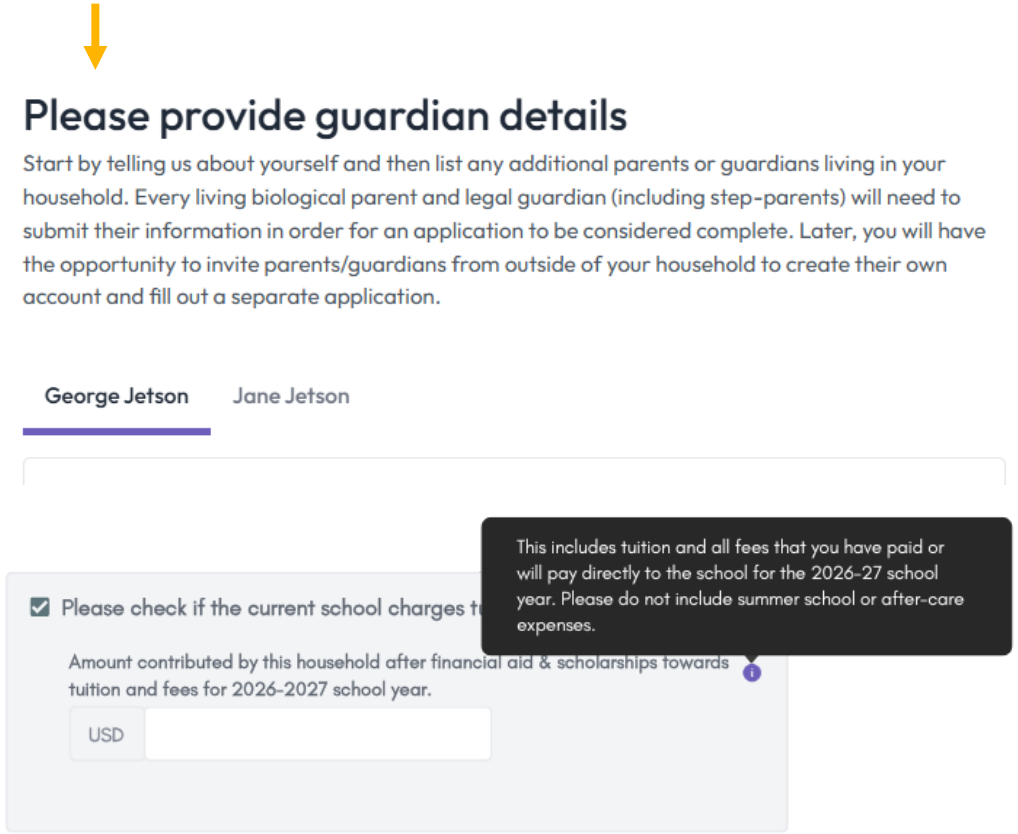


Sections & Built-In Guidance

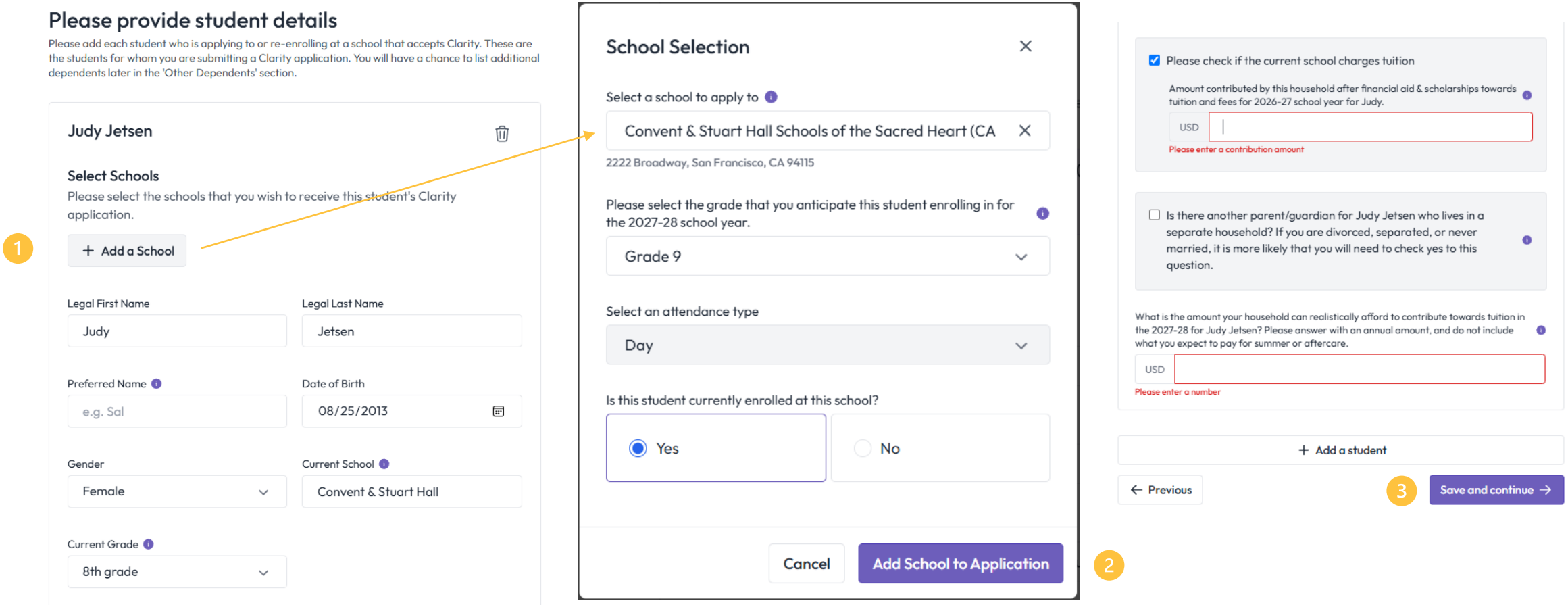
Clarity’s application has **4 main sections**, plus a verification process for tax documentation.



Detailed information is provided at the start of each section of the application:



School Selection



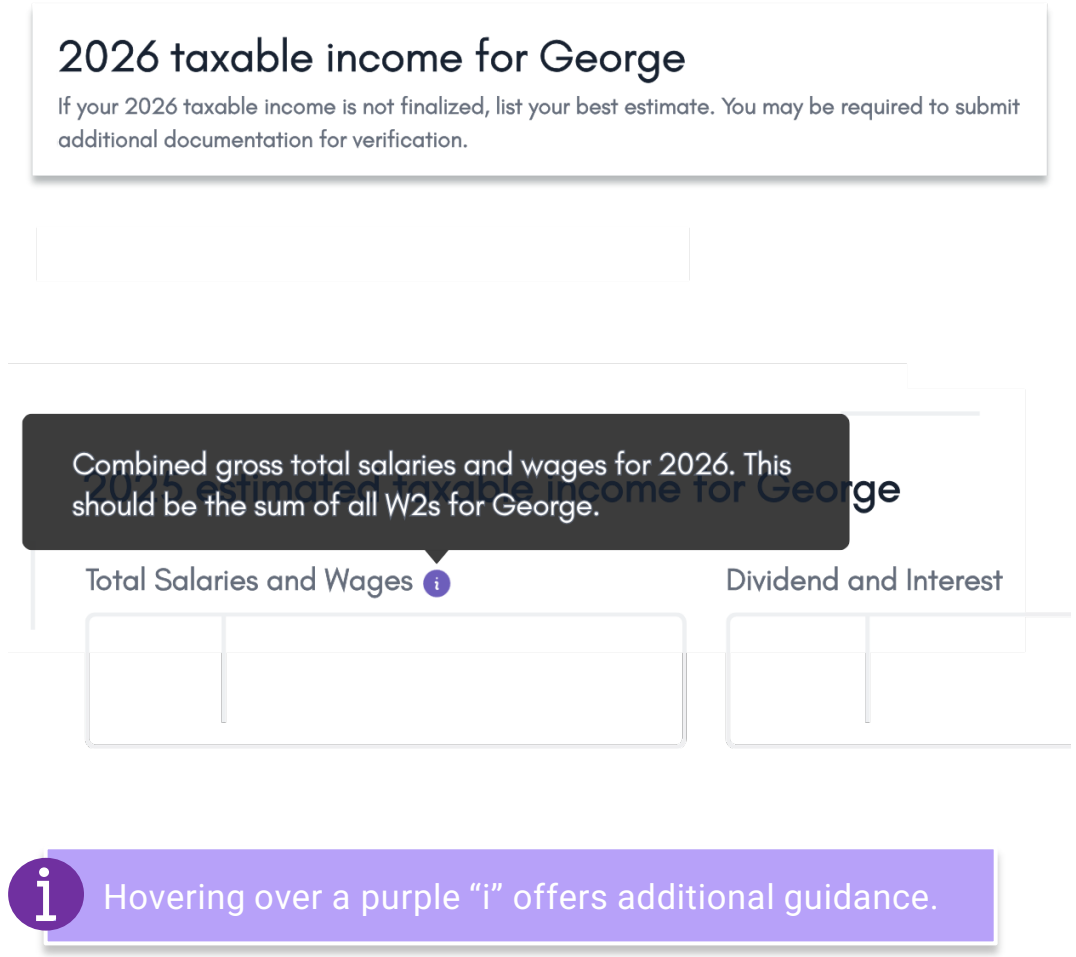
Income

This section includes **income** for:

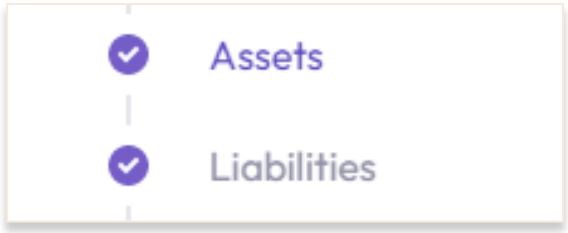
1. Parents (taxable + nontaxable income)
2. Applicants

What is the key to completing the Total Taxable Income section?

- Using your most recent 1040 federal tax return and W2s.



Assets vs. Liabilities





Assets

Information on:

- Investments
- Bank accounts
- Retirement
- Housing
- Vehicles

Liabilities

Information on:

- Past medical *(longer than 1 year)*
- Student loans
- Credit cards
- All other debts

Business/Farm Ownership

Clarity

You will answer questions about:

1. Gross profits
2. Net income
3. Business assets
4. Total liabilities



Be sure to upload all associated business tax returns with your individual tax returns.

Gather Business/Farm Tax Documents

If you file/receive any of these, they will help you reference and answer questions regarding financial activities for the current and previous calendar year:

- **Individual tax returns** (1040, Schedule C, Schedule E, Schedule F)
- **Business returns:**
  - S-Corporations → 1120-S and K-1
  - Partnerships → 1065 and K-1
- **Self-employment information**

Beyond the Numbers

Other Considerations

Are there any other sources (relatives, friends, foundations, etc) that may contribute toward educational expenses for Elroy Jetsen in the upcoming school year? If so, please indicate here.

Please list any other sources such as relatives, friends, or third party scholarships that you expect to contribute towards your 2027-28 school year educational expenses. Please specify amounts expected from each source.

Is there any additional information that you would like to have considered?

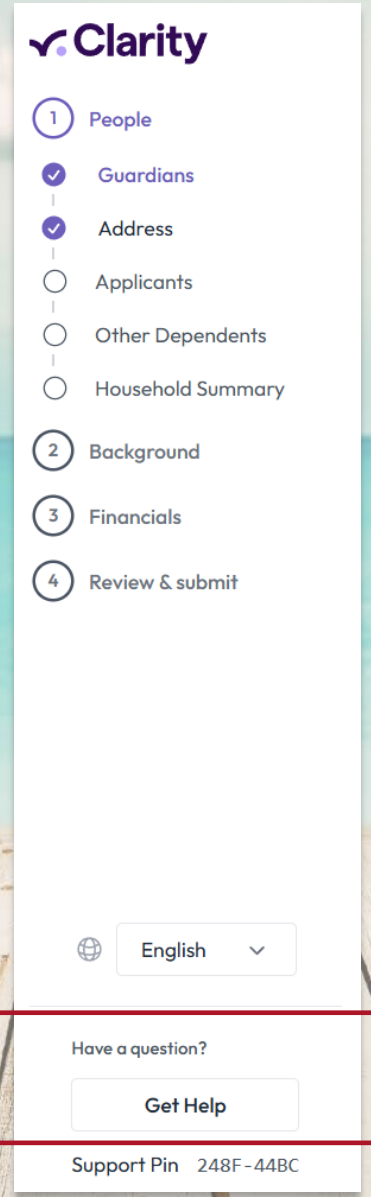
Please provide any additional explanations or context about your financial situation that will be helpful for the school to know when evaluating your application.

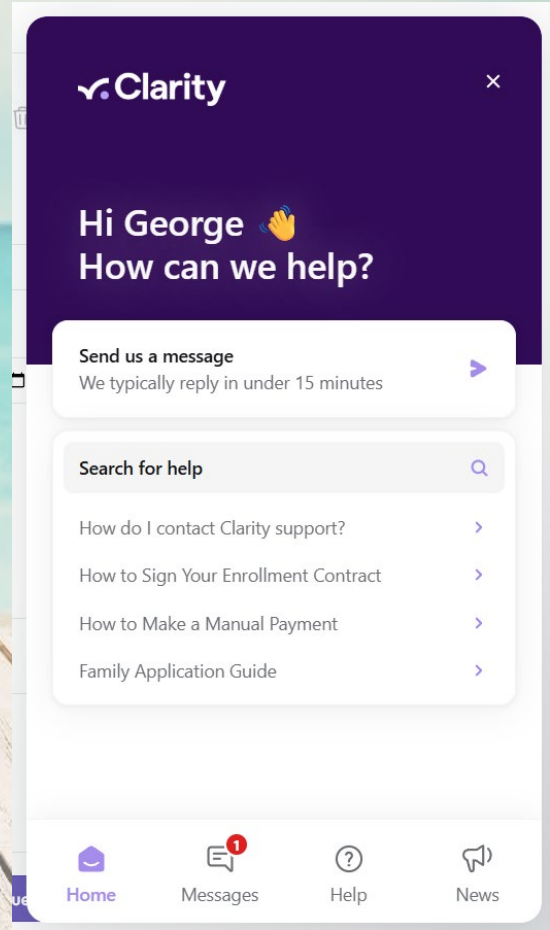


Help and Support

Clarity Family Support

- support@claritytuition.com
- (206) 210-3752
- In-app “Get Help” chat and “Have a Question?” buttons





Thank You for Attending

MISSION ENROLLMENT

QUESTIONS?

Presented in Partnership with K-12 Private and Independent Schools.



Anita Harper
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER