

Clear Creek Christian School Tuition Assistance Policy

Introduction

A goal of the Clear Creek Christian School is to provide Christian education for every potential student that desires it. However, we realize that many families have financial barriers that impede their ability to enroll their children in a private Christian school. Therefore, the Tuition Assistance Fund (TAF) and the Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) Fund are available to assist families based on their financial need. Our intent is that this policy be considered a Qualified Scholarship Program under the Internal Revenue Code and that awards be tax free to the recipient.

Applications

Student aid forms are available on the web site and in the school office. Applications for tuition assistance must be submitted to the school office by June 15th for the next school year. A complete submission includes the student aid form plus a copy of the family's Federal tax form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ for the most recent tax year with accompanying schedules, W-2 forms. Applicants for SGO scholarships must also complete the brief on-line application on our SGO partner's web site.¹

Financial information is strictly confidential; and will be viewed only by the Tuition Assistance Committee. Fully completed tuition assistance applications will be considered only after a family has applied for enrollment and paid the appropriate enrollment fees. Late applications may be considered at the discretion of the Tuition Assistance Committee. However, applications received by the deadline will be considered first.

The Tuition Assistance Committee will evaluate applications with respect to income eligibility, set aid awards based on need and available funds, notify parents of awards, and provide a confidential report to the Board. The Committee will be chaired by the Treasurer or a School Board Member and include three members at large.

Eligibility

- ◆ Parents must demonstrate an understanding of and desire for Christian education. To qualify for tuition assistance, they should be able to provide specific examples of financial sacrifices they have made or are prepared to make in their own lives to enable their children to attend a Christian school (working extra jobs, cutting back on discretionary spending, selling vehicles, delaying major purchases, etc.). This sacrifice balances the sacrifice of the tuition assistance donors and the staff of the school.

¹ Instructions will be included in the application packet.

- ◆ Eligibility shall be based on demonstrated student need and space availability in the classroom.
- ◆ Tuition assistance does not renew automatically. Families must re-apply for tuition assistance each year.
- ◆ If a student withdraws from school during the year or is expelled, all unused portions of the tuition assistance will be retained in or returned to the Fund.
- ◆ Additional criteria for SGO scholarship eligibility are specified by Indiana law. Please refer to application packet for the current eligibility requirements.

Tuition assistance awards

In order to meet the needs of the greatest number of families, the maximum award will be 50% of the annual tuition.² The Tuition Assistance Committee will review applications and verify eligibility based on income guidelines set each year for the Indiana Choice Scholarship program. The amount of the award will be based on the applicant's adjusted gross income. The Tuition Assistance Committee will take into account special circumstances recorded on the student aid form. Students eligible for SGO funds may receive aid from both funds.

Any funds that are awarded and subsequently not used due to withdrawal of the student or other loss of eligibility as defined by this policy will be returned and available for award to other eligible students under this policy.

Non-discrimination

The Clear Creek Christian School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policy, tuition assistance policy and athletic and other school administered programs.

² Stated another way, the family must pay at least 50% of the base tuition rate for each student enrolled. If staff, member, or multiple student discounts apply to the family, the fund will meet the student's need up to the point that the tuition due from the family for each student is 50% of the base tuition rate.

Tuition Assistance Processing Schedule

February 1 st	Application period opens for the next school year
June 15 th	Applications must submitted to school office
July	Tuition Assistance Committee reviews data and sets awards
July 31 st	Applicants notified of awards
August 10 th	Awardees must re-confirm enrollment, re-confirm need, and accept award
February 1 st	Application period opens for the next school year