



Financial Aid Guidelines

At the Friends School Mullica Hill, the majority of our school's operating expenses are funded with tuition dollars. This means that tuition controls, in large part, the quality of the education Friends School Mullica Hill is able to offer. It is recognized that some sacrifice is appropriate for something as crucial as your child's education. At the same time, the Board and the Head of School acknowledge that financial assistance will be necessary to build and maintain a student body that supports the mission of Friends School. Consequently, since the beginning of the school in 1969, significant funds have been devoted to tuition assistance. For the 2007-2008 school year, approximately 28% of the student body at Friends School received need-based financial aid.

In order for us to allocate our resources wisely and fairly, we have enlisted the help of Independent School Management's FAST (Financial Aid for School Tuition) program. ISM's FAST does not decide whether financial assistance will be given or how much to give; rather FAST provides a need-based financial aid analysis service. FAST provides the school with a report, which includes a recommendation of what a family should reasonably contribute toward tuition. All information from FAST is kept confidential. Applications are reviewed by the confidential Financial Aid Committee and the committee recommends to the Head of School allocation of financial aid resources for the next year. Upon approval of the Head of School, financial aid offers are sent to families.

While no financial aid procedure can be entirely equitable – there are simply too many individual factors and extenuating circumstances – the process that has been established has served Friends School well. Please read the *Principles of Good Practice for Financial Aid* published by the National Association of Independent Schools (www.nais.org), as they have implications for both the school and parents. Friends School Mullica Hill intends to be guided by these principles to the extent that resources and conditions permit.

Financial Aid Procedures

The Financial Aid process is outlined below:

PROCEDURES FOR PARENTS:

1. Parents are asked to access the FAST program website especially for Friends School Mullica Hill applicants. Go to the school's website at www.friendsmh.org, and click on the link for FAST. All your financial information should be entered directly through the secure server. Space is also provided to fill out additional information that may be pertinent to your application. In addition, a copy of your 2007 tax return should be mailed directly to FAST. Please contact Bonnie Clark, Director of Admission and Financial Aid at 478-2908 x 102, to request the FAST tax return mailing envelope.
2. There will be a fee of \$25 required to process this application. Once completed the application will be available immediately for the Financial Aid Committee's review. You may be contacted by the school if additional information is needed.

PROCEDURES FOR FRIENDS SCHOOL MULLICA HILL:

1. Once the application is entered the FSMH Financial Aid Committee can access your application.
2. The FSMH Financial Aid Committee then meets to review each family's Completed online application. The Board of Trustees allocates a certain amount of total aid to the committee and gives guidelines about how this should be divided between returning and new students.
3. The Financial Aid Committee recommends to the Head of School allocation of financial aid resources for the next year. Upon approval by the Head of School, financial aid offers are sent to families.

It is Friends School Mullica Hill's desire to extend financial aid offers to families in a timely manner, in order that the family and the school be able to prepare for enrollment for the following school year. The most frequent cause of delays is late application for financial aid or late submission of supporting documents such as the tax return.

Families may contact Bonnie Clark, Director of Admission and Financial Aid, to request extensions and inform of extenuating circumstances, however, extensions cannot always be granted. There are always more requests for assistance than the budget allows. Please keep this in mind when timing your application.

The deadlines for applying for financial aid for the 2008-2008 school year are as follows:

Re-enrolling and New families: Online application should be completed by **March 14, 2008.**

Tax return should be postmarked by **April 15, 2008.**

All applications and supporting materials submitted after the above dates will be considered on a rolling basis, as budgeted funds permit.