



## 2017-2018 Friends School Mullica Hill Tuition Assistance Information

As a Quaker school, Friends School Mullica Hill is committed to maintaining a diverse student body, representing varied economic backgrounds. Consequently, since the beginning of the school in 1969, significant funds have been devoted to tuition assistance. For the 2016-2017 school year approximately 35% of the student body at Friends School received tuition assistance.

We assume that each family comes to school with an understanding and willingness to pay the cost of tuition, or to contribute the majority of their child's tuition. We expect families to pay for the educational expenses of their children to the extent they are able. The purpose of the tuition assistance program is to fill the gap between the actual cost of a year's tuition and what parents can be realistically be expected to pay towards this cost. We understand and appreciate the financial commitment families undertake in deciding to send their children to Friends School Mullica Hill.

We also expect that a family has first explored other avenues for help with tuition revenue before applying for assistance, which may include contributions from grandparents or other relatives, investment funds or interest, revenue from a recreational vehicle, beach house or second home, or the sacrifice of extended vacation time.

Our tuition assistance plan, which determines a student's tuition, derives from the principle that a family's financial commitment should be in equitable proportion to their financial resources.

We know families come in various shapes and sizes. In the case of single parents and two parent families where only one family member is employed, here is some additional information to keep in mind when considering tuition assistance:

Information is requested from non-custodial parents. When parents are separated or divorced, information is requested from both custodial and non-custodial parents. Divorce agreements that limit a parent's legal obligation to pay tuition do not prevent a parent from paying tuition. If unusual circumstances suggest that a non-custodial parents should not be involved in the process, the custodial parent should contact the Director of Admissions.

- **In the case of divorced or separated parents, financial resources of both natural parents will be considered, and therefore, both parents must provide complete financial information in the FAST application.** It is the responsibility of the custodial parent to ask the non-custodial parent to complete the online parent financial statement and provide the federal tax information required. An application will not be reviewed unless both parties cooperate and provide the required information in a timely manner.
- **In the cases where a non-custodial natural parent's whereabouts is unknown,** or when that parent has made no contact with the student for a period of years, and has given no financial support to the student during that time, the Tuition Assistance Committee may waive the requirement of financial information from the non-custodial parent.

Both parents in a household are expected to be employed before seeking tuition assistance. Please include information if a parent is caring for pre-school aged children, tending to a needy family member, recovering from an illness, dealing with a disability or facing other circumstances that prevent employment.

- **In the case of two parent families where only one parent works** and there are no extenuating circumstances mentioned above, there will be an adjustment to impute or increase income in the FAST application by the equivalent of part-time minimum wage position.

Tuition assistance awards are evaluated each year based on applications received. All tuition assistance applicants are reminded that **a new FAST application is required each school year.**

Friends School Mullica Hill uses ISM FAST, a third-party program for all assistance applications. FAST assists independent schools in determining a family's financial need.

For an applicant to be considered for tuition assistance, the application must be completed and on file with the FASTonline application system by 03/1/17. Tax returns, W2's and 1099's must be postmarked to FAST by 03/15/17. Applications completed after the above-mentioned deadlines will be considered, if budgeted funds remain available.

All new tuition assistance applicant families must successfully complete the admissions process and be offered enrollment to be considered for assistance in the 2017-2018 school year.

The FAST tuition assistance application is available via a link from the FSMH website at: <http://www.friendsmh.org/admissions/tuitionfinancial-aid/>. Scroll to the bottom of this page where you will see the image below, click on the image to take you directly into the Friends School Mullica Hill assistance application. The application can be started and saved until complete, if necessary.



**Here is a timetable of 2017-2018 Tuition Assistance Dates:**

Tue, Jan 3, 2017	Tuition Assistance Online Application Opens
Wed, March 1, 2017	Tuition Assistance Online Application Deadline
Wed, March 15, 2017	Tuition Assistance Tax Documents Deadline (to be mailed to FAST)
Tue, April 18, 2017	Tuition Assistance Award Notifications Begin

If you are in need of further information, please contact Judy Corona-Karpowicz, Director of Admissions and Advancement at [jcorona@friendsmh.org](mailto:jcorona@friendsmh.org) or 856-478-2908, x102.