

Tuition Assistance FAQs

What is tuition assistance?

Tuition assistance enables The River Academy to enroll mission-fit students who would not otherwise have access to a classical, Christian education due to financial constraints. The amount of tuition assistance awarded to each family is based on recommendations from a national third party organization (FACTS), which analyzes tuition assistance applications for independent schools across the country.

How do I apply for tuition assistance?

We use a third party organization (FACTS) to evaluate individual family needs.
<https://www.theriveracademy.org/tuition-assistance>

What kind of information will be asked on the application?

FACTS collects the following information:

- Family Income -To help with the tuition assistance application timeline for the 23-24 school year, we are now asking for a 2021 or 2022 tax return.
- Major assets
- Large expenditures
- Number of students
- Basic living expenses

When is the tuition assistance application deadline?

Current families must submit the tuition assistance application by January 31st. New families interested in applying for tuition assistance must submit the tuition assistance application at the same time as the admission application.

Why is the deadline so early in the year?

With application/enrollment now open for the 2023-24 school year, we expect to see new families applying for tuition assistance. We feel it is important that our current families are considered for tuition assistance awards ahead of new families.

What if I don't have my taxes done yet?

2022 tax documents are not required for your 23/24 tuition assistance application.

We understand that it has been challenging to complete your taxes and submit the application by the deadline, so we have adjusted the tax documents required for your application. Although your previous year's W2 is still required (2022), you can submit either your 2021 or 2022 tax return.

What if my income or expenses have recently changed or will be changing soon?

Please use the comment section in the application to tell us about special circumstances that might factor into the final decision.

How much assistance can I expect to receive?

FACTS uses a precise formula to calculate and recommend an award that will not exceed 50% of tuition for each enrolled child.

When can I expect to receive a tuition assistance decision?

After January 31st, you can expect to receive a decision within one to two weeks of your application verification date. To ensure a timely decision, make sure to complete your application and submit all required tax documents. After FACTS has verified and processed your application, a three-person tuition assistance committee will review the award recommendation and make a final decision based on enrollment, available funds, and other relevant factors. All financial information and the identity of families receiving assistance will be held in strict confidence.

How much does it cost?

FACTS Grant and Aid charges a \$40 tuition assistance application fee.

Who will see my tuition assistance application?

FACTS Grant and Aid collects the information needed to make an award recommendation. Only the tuition assistance committee will review the FACTS recommendation and finalize the decision in light of any special circumstances. All financial information and the identity of families receiving assistance will be held in strict confidence.

How often will I need to apply?

Tuition assistance is awarded on an annual basis and must be re-applied for each year. Current families must submit the tuition assistance application by January 31st. New families interested in applying for tuition assistance must submit the tuition assistance application at the same time as the admission application. (The admission application and the tuition assistance application are two separate applications.) Any award will be communicated at the time of acceptance to The River Academy. All financial arrangements must be agreed upon before admission is considered final.