

## Tuition Assistance Frequently Asked Questions

The decision of private education is an important one. The cost of private education from kindergarten through college is a major factor in this decision for many families.

At Saint Ignatius College Prep, we are fortunate to benefit from the generosity of our benefactors to offer financial assistance to students and families in need. Below is a sampling of the typical questions surrounding this process. If you should have further questions, feel free to contact Mr. James Luzzi and [james.luzzi@ignatius.org](mailto:james.luzzi@ignatius.org).

### How is Tuition Assistance handled at Saint Ignatius?

The school is fortunate to be able to assist families that seek a Jesuit education. Tuition assistance is distributed to qualified families based upon need. Other schools may offer merit scholarships, but at Saint Ignatius the only assistance is need-based.

### Who can apply for tuition assistance?

All families who have a student at Saint Ignatius are eligible to apply for tuition assistance.

### When is the completed FACTS application due?

The window for applications for the class of 2023 is from December 1, 2018 to March 1, 2019.

The window for applications for the classes of 2020, 2021 and 2022 is from January 1, 2019 to April 15, 2019.

Families applying for tuition assistance should plan to file their tax returns early.

### What is the total amount of Tuition Assistance available? What is the average grant?

In 2018-2019, Saint Ignatius distributed 3.82 million to approximately 333 students (24% of the student population). The average grant was \$11439.

### If parents are divorced/separated, who should fill out the FACTS Tuition Assistance application?

Saint Ignatius believes that parents have an ethical obligation to pay for the education expenses of their children. The Tuition Assistance Committee will consider the assets of both parents before making any

award and cannot be bound by a decree, assertion or any other agreement regarding any responsibility for education expenses. If either parent has remarried, the Tuition Assistance Committee will also consider the income and assets of the stepparent. If either parent lives with another adult, we may consider the assets and income of that person, depending on the circumstances. We do not share the financial information of one parent with the other. If tuition assistance is awarded, Saint Ignatius leaves it to the parents to decide how to divide the responsibility of paying tuition.

In view of this policy, we ask that both parents and their current spouses and partners, if any, fill out separate applications through FACTS.

Can this requirement be waived?

Waiving the requirement of the non-custodial parent will be considered only under the following circumstances:

1. Documented information is provided that states the location of the non-custodial parents is unknown: OR
2. Documented information is provided that the non-custodial parents has given no support AND has had no contact with the family for at least two years.

Who grants the assistance, FACTS or Saint Ignatius?

All tuition assistance awards are awarded from Saint Ignatius, and only go to offset tuition. FACTS is a guide for the Tuition Assistance Committee; they do not grant awards.

Guiding Principles for Families Seeking Tuition Assistance

The purpose of our Tuition Assistance Program is to provide monetary assistance to those qualified students and their families who cannot afford the cost of attending our Jesuit, Catholic and College Preparatory school. We also recognize that each family bears the primary responsibility for financing a student's education costs. To help you through this process, we offer these guiding principles, which are designed to help us partner with you in this process. These principles also reflect our commitment to equity and fairness as we embrace the collaborative nature of the financial aid process, one that we hope will yield the best result for our families and for our school.

1. The family seeks to apply for assistance only after it has determined its own resources are insufficient to cover school costs.
2. The family is proactive in seeking information and answers to questions related to the financial aid process directly from the school.

3. The family is open and honest when completing the FACTS Grant and Aid application and when providing any supporting documentation.
4. The family adheres to school deadlines and documentation submission requirements.
5. The family submits true and accurate tax-related documentation, such as the 1040, etc.
6. The family promptly responds to school or FACTS request for additional information to support the application.
7. The family understands that the school is not obligated to provide tuition assistance, even if the family shows eligibility for it.
8. The family is respectful in communications with the school's tuition assistance and Treasurer's Office staff and administrators.
9. The family uses school-established channels for appealing a tuition assistance decision.
10. The family is discreet about disclosing its tuition assistance outcomes.
11. The family respects the privacy of other families who choose not to disclose their tuition assistance details or outcomes.
12. The family works to the best of its ability to arrange its financial resources to pay any determined family contribution in the timeline prescribed by the school.