



TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. *How does the school make decisions about tuition assistance?*

Epiphany partners with FACTS Grant & Aid, a private company that handles this process for a large number of independent schools across the country. The FACTS process provides an objective analysis of each family's financial circumstances. The methodology for determining financial need is similar to that used by most colleges and universities. This process considers taxable and non-taxable income, assets, liabilities, family size and the number of students in tuition-charging schools or colleges. After allowances for basic necessities and taxes, remaining funds are considered available for education expenses. FACTS provides the "calculated need" for each applicant and then we decide how much of that need we can meet with our limited resources.

2. *Should I apply for aid?*

The majority of families who enroll at Epiphany will make some kind of personal sacrifice to pay for tuition. Most adjust their spending priorities, maximize both parents' earnings, and carefully manage assets in order to do so. While we would like to provide guidelines to help you decide whether to apply for aid, each family's circumstances are unique. The most helpful guideline comes from your own knowledge of your family's finances. Can you find a way to pay approximately \$500 for ten months for your child's education? If not, you may be a candidate for financial aid. We have not set income limits that rule out anyone from consideration.

3. *Will financial aid impact my child's chance for admission and/or re-enrollment?*

No. However, at present, the processes are separate. Families who have applied will receive a decision in early May. Assistance for the new school year may be withheld from re-enrolling families who have not completed the required financial aid forms on time, paid their account, or who are not meeting acceptable standards of academic performance or behavior.

4. *Will we get aid in the future and how much?*

School families must reapply for aid every year. If the family's financial circumstances have remained the same, the school will make every effort to provide assistance at a similar level. If circumstances change, the award amount will likely change as well. We cannot predict the number of families that will request assistance each year. To be safe, families should plan on their contribution either remaining the same or increasing slightly each year.

5. *What forms must we complete?*

Tuition assistance decisions will not be made unless the entire FACTS process is completed. While the application is submitted online, families are still required to submit

hard copies of tax documents to verify the data that has been submitted. This all must be completed by April 15th.

6. *If I have other children attending other independent schools or colleges, must I apply for financial aid from those schools also?*

Yes. We assume that a family applying for aid at Epiphany will apply for aid from all institutions their other children may be attending. If another school does not have a financial aid program, please note that in your application. In addition, we will ask for verification of aid from the other schools.

7. *In our family, only one parent works outside the home. Must both parents be employed to receive financial aid from Epiphany?*

If all children in a family are of school age, we generally expect that both parents will work outside the home. If a parent chooses not to work once all children are in school, we will estimate what that parent could earn and contribute toward tuition if he/she were employed.

8. *I have decided to go back to school while my child is at Epiphany. Will it affect my financial aid?*

We assume that a parent who is enrolled in school will continue to earn income and has arranged to fund his/her own education without reliance on family resources.

9. *In a family with divorced/separated parents, will Epiphany still expect both parents to be part of the application for assistance?*

Yes. We require that both parents complete the online aid application to provide a realistic picture of family resources. We are aware that circumstances differ widely among separated or divorced parents and urge you to contact us if such information cannot be provided.

10. *I am planning to remarry. Will that my new spouse's financial circumstances be considered in the financial aid allocation for my child?*

Yes, the addition of another adult into a household can substantially change its financial picture. In our view, your new spouse's resources become part of the family financial picture. We will ask you to complete the online application together, providing information pertinent to the new family arrangement. While we realize that change of this sort can be emotionally difficult and require a period of adjustment, we must nonetheless collect the necessary information and documentation.

11. *What will necessitate a recalculation of our aid award?*

If a family is awarded aid based on multiple siblings attending Epiphany (or other institutions) and one or more of the siblings does not enroll as planned, the family contribution will be recalculated based on these changed circumstances. If the school becomes aware of information suggesting that the family's ability to contribute is at a different level than previously determined, the award will be re-evaluated. This re-evaluation may occur at any time throughout the year, before or after an award is granted. Should it be determined that a family or applicant knowingly did not disclose significant

income or assets, and that this failure to disclose resulted in a larger award, then the award and the student's enrollment will be reviewed.

12. *Can we get a "full ride?"*

At this time, our resources do not allow us to support the full expenses of any student. Philosophically, we believe that every family should make a reasonable and sacrificial contribution toward the education of a student in our school. We believe that any "investment" enhances the student's appreciation for the opportunity to enjoy an Epiphany education. Rather than providing a large amount of assistance to a small number of students, we believe in wisely distributing our available assistance to make this educational experience possible for any deserving student.