



# Rowland Hall

EXTRAORDINARY LEARNING

## Financial Aid Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the Purpose of Financial Aid?**

Rowland Hall offers need-based financial aid for tuition to families of students in grades K -12 without regard to race, religion, physical ability, gender, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin. The program exists to help assure that any admitted student will have the opportunity to attend the school. While meeting the full demonstrated need of all families who apply is rarely possible, we do our best to make a Rowland Hall education affordable to the greatest number of families.

### **How is Financial Aid Awarded?**

Financial aid awards reflect our belief that parents should finance their child's education to the extent that they are able. Financial aid allocations are based on the funds available and the demonstrated need of the families qualifying for aid.

The Financial Aid Committee uses the Parents' Financial Statement (PFS) from the School and Student Services for Financial Aid (SSS), a service of the National Association of Independent Schools, to process our financial aid applications. For supporting documentation, we require the most recent tax forms, W-2's, the SSS Business/Farm Statement (if applicable) and any reported extenuating circumstances to help determine each family's need for financial aid.

### **Is there a fee to apply for Financial Aid?**

If you apply online, the cost is \$37 to process the PFS. The fee is nonrefundable. (The fee to apply using the paper form is \$49.) If you cannot afford either fee, contact the Director of Financial Aid at 801-924-5957, for information about the SSS Fee Waiver Program.

### **I never do my taxes until close to the April 15 deadline. How will this affect my financial aid award?**

You will need to complete your taxes early enough to meet the March 1 deadline in order to receive full consideration for financial aid. Please contact the Director of Financial Aid if you have any concerns with meeting this deadline.

### **Do I have to apply for financial aid before I know my child has been admitted?**

Yes. The admissions application process and the financial aid application process happen simultaneously.

### **Does applying for financial aid influence the admission decision?**

No. The Admissions Committee and the Financial Aid Committee are completely separate. Rowland Hall admits students based on academic merit, assessments, and personal qualities and determines need according to family financial circumstances. The names of families applying for financial aid will only be shared with the Director of Admission for logistical purposes.

### **What if I have more than one student at Rowland Hall?**

Parents need to file only one Parents' Financial Statement for all children at the school.

**Is financial aid automatically renewed each year?**

No. We require that families receiving financial aid reapply each year. However, as long as the student makes a solid effort to do well and remains a good citizen of the school, financial aid will be renewed each year according to demonstrated need. Changes in such things as income, family status, or the number of children attending tuition-charging institutions may result in increases or decreases in subsequent awards.

**What is SSS and is my personal information secure?**

The School and Student Services program is owned by NAIS and used by more than 2,400 K-12 private schools and other organizations to help determine a family's ability to pay school costs. The service and process helps ensure that all schools use a consistent assessment and an objective procedure to evaluate your financial aid application. More information on SSS Information Security can be found at [sss.nais.org/parents](http://sss.nais.org/parents) on their FAQ page.

**I am divorced, or no longer living with my child's other parent. Will Rowland Hall still expect that person to be part of my application for financial aid?**

Yes. We require that both natural parents and their current domestic partners, if any, complete a separate financial statement. It is the responsibility of the custodial parent to ask the non-custodial parent to fill out this form. An extra form for the non-custodial parent may be obtained from the Director of Financial Aid or downloaded from the Rowland Hall website.

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

1. Documented information is provided that states the location of non-custodial parent is unknown; or
2. Documented information is provided that the non-custodial parent has given no support for at least two years.

Documentation will be accepted from a doctor, lawyer, minister, or any such person outside the immediate family.

**I am remarried and/or live with someone else. Will that person's financial circumstances be considered in the financial aid allocation for my child?**

Yes. The addition of another adult into a household generally changes its financial picture. We will ask that you complete the PFS together.

**My spouse does not work. How will that affect my financial aid award?**

If your spouse chooses not to work, then an annual salary based upon a forty-hour position paying a minimum wage will be added to the income calculations for evaluation. There are circumstances such as caring for a preschool child or an elderly parent that would exempt a family from this policy. Each application and circumstance is evaluated individually.

**How and when will I be notified of my award?**

Families applying for financial aid will receive a letter from the Financial Aid Committee informing them of their award. Letters are usually mailed in late April to families who submitted a complete application by March 1.

**What payment plans are available?**

Rowland Hall offers three payment options: a one-time payment, a two-time payment, and nine monthly payments. For further information, contact Carol Frymire, Student Billing Manager, at (801) 924-2959.

**Tuition and Fees for 2012-2013**

Please see the “2012-2013 Tuition and Fees” at <http://www.rowlandhall.org> for a full understanding of the costs associated with a Rowland Hall education. The Board of Trustees sets tuition for each year, and annual increases are expected.

**What about Upper School Laptops?**

If the purchase of a laptop is a hardship for your family, please contact the Director of Financial Aid. Arrangements can be made with the Student Billing Manager for an interest-free loan.

**I still have questions. Who can I call?**

For further information or questions please contact Michelle Rasich, Director of Financial Aid, at (801) 924-5957; or the PFS Helpline at (800) 344-8328.