Guided Tuition Program Questions and Answers

What is Guided Tuition?
In contrast to our previous Financial Aid Program, the Guided Tuition Program allows families to apply for a reduced tuition, as opposed to applying for a ‘grant' or an ‘award'. The Guided Tuition level for each student is guided by our mission, the needs of our families and the budget of the school. The Guided Tuition Committee operates separately from the Admission Office which means that an application for Guided Tuition does not impact your child's admission to the school. Current students applying for Guided Tuition must be in good standing with the school.

What is the deadline for applying for Guided Tuition?
By March 5, 2010, or as soon as possible, families must complete and submit the Private School Aid Service Form to PSAS with all required forms and attachment.  Click here for the PSAS form.

When will the amount of the Guided Tuition be communicated to families?
A letter will be sent by the Guided Tuition Committee to families with the Guided Tuition amount in late April.

Who is eligible to apply for the Guided Tuition Program?
Families (current and newly admitted to DCDS) who believe that they are in need of a reduced tuition are eligible to apply. Students of all grade levels may apply. To be eligible you must first submit your child's enrollment contract with the enrollment deposit by the due date (February 12, 2010 for current students), and then submit your PSAS form to PSAS by March 5, 2010, or as soon as possible with your completed 2009 IRS return.

Click here for PSAS form and information page.

Will every eligible student receive Guided Tuition?
The school's budget for financial assistance is limited and, therefore, we are unable to offer Guided Tuition to every student who qualifies and who is admitted to DCDS. Consequently, a timely request for guided tuition is critical.

Will Guided Tuition continue throughout a student's years at DCDS?
Families will need to qualify annually by completing the PSAS form in order to continue to be offered Guided Tuition. If the calculation confirms that continued assistance is necessary and the student is in good standing with the school, then the student will remain on the Guided Tuition Program. The student's Guided Tuition amount may change due to the tuition increases of the school, the school's available budget for Guided Tuition, or the change in the financial situation of the family.

Should a student contract for the 2010/2011 school year be submitted pending a Guided Tuition determination?
Yes. You must first submit your child's enrollment contract with the enrollment deposit by February 12, 2010, and then submit your PSAS form to PSAS by March 5, 2010 with your completed 2009 IRS return in order to be eligible for the Guided Tuition Program. Should your financial need exceed the Guided Tuition amount, and you choose not to enroll, you may request a refund of your enrollment deposit. The withdrawal notification to the Director of Finance must be within seven days of your notification of the Guided Tuition amount so that
funds can be allocated to another deserving child. Enrollment deposit refunds are non-refundable for any reason other than this.

**Does every enrolling family need to complete PSAS financial forms?**
No. Only those families who wish to be considered for the Guided Tuition Program need to complete the PSAS forms. Families who elect not to complete the financial forms will pay full tuition.

**What is the tuition for the upcoming school year?**
Tuition for the next school year is released with the student contracts in January. You can view tuition for 2010-2011 by [clicking here](#).

**Who handles questions regarding the Guided Tuition Program?**
General questions regarding the program may be answered by:

- Lower School: [Ruth Rebold](#)
- Junior School: [Joseph D'Angelo](#)
- Middle School: [Cynthia Goldberg](#)
- Upper School: [Brad Gilman](#)

Questions specific to your family circumstances should be directed to [Valerie Greiner](#).

**Who handles questions regarding the PSAS forms?**
You may submit questions directly to PSAS at their website: [www.psas.org](http://www.psas.org).

**Will my financial information be kept confidential?**
Financial information submitted by parents in support of the Guided Tuition amount is held in confidence by the Guided Tuition Committee (Headmaster, Director of Finance, and Director of Strategic Initiatives) and Private School Aid Services.

**What are the components used by PSAS and the school to calculate the family's financial need?**
The formula used to calculate aid is complex and therefore we are unable to provide benchmarks for income level necessary to warrant a reduced tuition. Components used in the calculation are as follows:

- **Number of Children in Tuition Charging Schools.** The formula calculates an amount of income available for tuition. This amount is divided by the number of children in tuition charging schools to determine the tuition rate for any one student.
- **Income.** Pre-tax income from wages, business or investments is considered. The formula considers various costs against this income in determining the family's ability to pay. If two parents reside in separate households, the income, and expenses of both households are considered.
- **Assets.** A portion of a family's major assets, investments, and savings are added to the gross income and considered available for tuition. The income assumed to be generated by assets also takes parent age into account with respect to the consideration of retirement savings.
- **Family Size.** Living allowance estimates are based on the number of people in the student's household. Income is adjusted by expenditures for housing, food, or medical needs to obtain the available discretionary income.
• **Unusual Expenses.** Documented expenses such as those for the care of an aging grandparent, parent educational loan payments, or uninsured medical expenses are considered when determining the Guided Tuition amount.

• **Divorced, Separated or Never Married Parents** applying for financial aid from Detroit Country Day School are required to have the child's other parent submit a PSAS Student Aid Form, with appropriate documentation. If you are a single or divorced parent, your application will not be processed unless this requirement is met. This information is requested as both parents retain the obligation to contribute to the education of their children, regardless of the terms of any divorce decree, agreements stating otherwise, or willingness to pay. The only exception to this policy is the case where the child's other parent has had no involvement in the child's life. In this situation, a letter of verification from an independent party (lawyer, member of the clergy, school official, or other third party in a professional capacity) must be sent with your application. You may print the PSAS Student Aid Form by clicking here.