



tuition assistance FAQ's

What is the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)?

TAP is a program that is administered by FPD that helps to fill the gap between the cost of an FPD education and the amount that a family can afford to pay. It is in place for those families who desire a Christ centered college preparatory education for their child(ren), wish for them to be enrolled at FPD, and demonstrate a genuine financial need.

Who may apply for TAP?

A family who has enrolled (or re-enrolled) their children at FPD in grades K-12 is eligible to apply for TAP. Once a prospective student in grade K-12 has completed the admissions process and has been accepted, his or her family may be considered for a TAP award.

If I am awarded tuition assistance, will I have to pay anything?

Yes. Every FPD family is expected to participate in the cost of educating their child.

How does the application process work?

FPD uses a third party to review and evaluate your application. *Financial Aid for School Tuition (FAST)* is an arm of Independent School Management and provides a confidential review of your application. *FAST* advises the FPD Financial Aid office the amount that you should be able to contribute toward your child's tuition. Here are the step-by-step procedures.

1. Go to www.fpdmacon.org/tuition-assistance.
2. From there, you will be directed to the FPD-FAST application. You will be asked to reveal detailed financial information including income, expenses, assets and liabilities. *FAST* will review your application and recommend an award amount to the FPD Financial Aid office.
3. Mail or scan/email a copy of supporting documents, including your 2020 federal income tax return (1040) and W-2 forms, to:

FAST Processing
1316 North Union Street
Wilmington, DE 19806



IMPORTANT:

Be sure to write/type "First Presbyterian Day School" on the front of the envelope under your return address.

4. The FPD Financial Aid office will review your application and make an award decision.
5. The FPD Financial Aid office will notify you via U.S. Mail of the award decision.

How is need determined?

Several factors go into the determination of a need-based tuition assistance award.

- **The FAST Award Recommendation:** The *FAST* recommendation is derived from a standardized calculation, approved by the FPD Board of Trustees, that considers a family's assets, liabilities, income, expenses, and family size. After an allowance for basic necessities, taxes and tithing, the remaining funds are considered discretionary income, available to be used for the child's education.
- **Available TAP Funds:** The pool of funds from which TAP awards are granted is generous, but limited. Award decisions may be impacted when the demand for TAP exceeds the amount of available funds.
- **Special Circumstances:** Sometimes the numbers don't tell the whole story. If there are special circumstances the numbers don't entirely reveal, there is a place in the *FAST* application for you to describe them.

Does FPD award athletic or academic scholarships?

FPD does not offer athletic scholarships. A student's athletic or academic ability is not considered in determining need-based tuition assistance. There are, however, several character and academic based merit-based awards available to middle and upper school students that are announced during the school year. For more information, contact FPD College Counselor Brad Thompson at brad.thompson@fpdmacon.org or 478-477-6505, ext. 108.

Is there a cost to apply?

Yes. There is a \$45 fee assessed by *FAST* to process your online application. This fee remains fixed whether the application is for one or multiple children and is payable as the last step of your online application. If you do not have a credit card, please contact FPD Financial Aid Administrator, Kay Sexton at kay.sexton@fpdmacon.org or (478) 477-6505, ext. 114.

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Is my application confidential?

Absolutely. We understand that a family's financial situation is a very personal matter. TAP application materials are kept in secured files in the Business Office and are only accessible by "need to know" staff in the FPD Financial Aid office.

May I apply for TAP, even though I haven't filed my tax returns?

Yes. Even if you haven't filed your income tax returns yet, go ahead and complete and submit your TAP application. Mail in your tax returns to FAST later, once they have been filed. In the meantime, we will review your TAP application, understanding that the returns are forthcoming. Any granted award will be considered as a 'conditional' award, which means that the award is granted based on the condition that the information on your tax return is consistent with the information you posted to your application.

How do you treat tuition assistance for divorced or separated parents?

FPD holds to the principle that both parents are responsible for the expense of a FPD education to the extent that they can do so. We require that both custodial and non-custodial parents provide us with the appropriate information and supporting documentation. When natural parents re-marry, we consider the obligations of the parent to his/her new family; the resources of the stepparent; and the obligations the stepparent has to his/her natural children.

What if the TAP award is too small? Are any of the pre-paid fees refundable?

The testing fee (new students) and the \$45 fee to FAST are non-refundable. However, you may receive a refund of your registration or re-enrollment deposit if the TAP award is insufficient for you to enroll your children for the 2021-2022 school year. Once you receive your TAP award commitment letter, we ask that you let us know of your intent within ten (10) days.

Is there any requirement of me, after receiving a TAP award?

We do require that TAP recipients pay their monthly tuition and fees through bank draft. Upon receipt of your TAP award letter, you will also receive materials to accept the TAP award and register for the bank draft process. We then ask that you make the school aware of your intent within ten (10) days.

Must I apply for TAP every year?

Yes. FPD asks that families who receive tuition assistance submit an annual application through the FAST online application process.

Is there a deadline to apply?

Yes and no. There is not a specific deadline for consideration, but there are target dates for you to pursue. The majority of the 2021-2022 TAP funds will be awarded during the spring of 2020. The sooner you apply, the greater your chances will be of receiving a meaningful TAP award.

2021-2022 TAP Target Dates

<u>By this Date</u>	<u>this should occur.</u>
February 15, 2021	Complete the FAST online application.
March 1, 2021	Mail your supporting documents to FAST.
March 31, 2021	You will be contacted by FPD, via e-mail, regarding the amount of assistance that is granted for the 2021-2022 school year.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

Help is only a phone call or email away. If you have questions about your FAST application or your supporting documentation, contact FAST at help@ismfast.com or 1-877-326-FAST. Call center hours are 24/7/365.

If you have questions about your award amount, or other questions about the FPD Tuition Assistance Program, contact the FPD Financial Aid or Admissions Office.

Kay Sexton, Financial Aid Administrator	kay.sexton@fpdmacon.org	478-477-6505, ext. 114
Charlie Parrish, Chief Financial Officer	charlie.parrish@fpdmacon.org	478-477-6505, ext. 104
Kris Vaughn, Director of Admissions	kris.vaughn@fpdmacon.org	478-477-4774