



# Making a Hawken Education Affordable

A guide to Flexible Tuition &  
Merit Scholarship Programs  
at Hawken School

# Think you can't afford a Hawken education? Think again.

For many years, Hawken has been a leader in making a private school education accessible to students from all socio-economic backgrounds. No other school in Ohio matches this commitment, with 45% of our student body benefitting from a total budget of \$10.3 million dollars.

## **What is Flexible Tuition?**

Flexible Tuition is a program that reflects Hawken's commitment to economic access for families of all income levels. It is a need-based financial aid program similar to those used by many private schools.

This program allows families to apply for reduced tuition based on their financial circumstances. Instead of "receiving financial aid," families pay a tuition amount based on their demonstrated need. At no time would the amount of reduced tuition need to be repaid to Hawken.

## **Why does Hawken offer Flexible Tuition?**

At Hawken, we believe that to prepare students for the real world, our community should mirror that world with a student body that is coeducational and representative of all ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds. Socio-economic diversity is one of Hawken's largest strategic priorities.

We know that many families who might not expect to be eligible for "financial aid" still qualify for Flexible Tuition. Flexible Tuition allows families to apply for reduced tuition on a sliding scale, based upon a family's demonstrated need.

## **How do I know if my family is eligible for the program?**

There is a wide range of families who qualify, from those who can afford only minimal tuition to those who can afford almost full tuition. Flexible Tuition is offered to students in grades K – 12. Because many factors are considered in calculating Flexible Tuition, current families who qualify represent a wide range of incomes.

We recognize that every family situation is different and that even a small amount of reduced tuition can make a critical difference for many families. Hawken encourages all families to apply for Flexible Tuition if they think they may qualify.

Flexible Tuition is offered to students in grades K – 12.

Tuition includes lunch.

Flexible Tuition may be available for transportation and technology.

# Flexible Tuition Ranges

Although individual family financial circumstances are unique, this table illustrates average family contributions by income level for students enrolled during the 2020-2021 academic year.

| Income Bracket Range  | Range of Family Contribution | Average Family Contribution |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| less than \$50,001    | \$500 - \$15,600             | \$5,438                     |
| \$50,001 - \$100,000  | \$1,750 - \$26,800           | \$7,952                     |
| \$100,001 - \$150,000 | \$2,350 - \$28,400           | \$9,747                     |
| \$150,001 and above   | \$5,350 - \$ 33,000          | \$16,853                    |



## National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS): Best Practices

Hawken aligns its Flexible Tuition guidelines with NAIS best practices, which states that the purpose of a financial aid program is to provide financial assistance to those students who cannot afford the cost of attendance. Furthermore, these principles reflect the standards of equity and Hawken's motto of Fair Play, reasserting Hawken's commitment to access and diversity.

More information about NAIS Best Practices can be found here: [nais.org/learn/principles-of-good-practice/financial-aid-administration](https://nais.org/learn/principles-of-good-practice/financial-aid-administration)

45%  
of the student  
body currently  
receives  
Flexible Tuition

Flexible Tuition  
budget:

\$10.3  
million

## Case Study #1

This is a family of four: two parents and two children, with only one child attending a tuition-charging school. The combined income of the two parents is \$126,000. State and federal taxes withheld amounted to \$19,000. The family owns their house, valued at \$200,000; mortgage and property taxes are \$17,000 annually. Assets, including savings, home equity, and investments are \$14,000.

According to the School and Student Services for Financial Aid (SSS) calculation, the estimated family contribution is \$12,500.

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Adjusted Gross Income:</b>                    | \$126,000 |
| <b>Net Assets:</b>                               | \$14,000  |
| <b>Taxes (State and Federal withheld):</b>       | \$19,000  |
| <b>SSS Calculation for Educational Expenses:</b> | \$12,500  |

**Flexible Tuition Paid:** \$12,500

## Case Study #2

This is a family of 5, with two working parents and three children attending tuition-charging schools, including one in college. The combined income of the parents is \$350,000. State and federal taxes withheld amounted to \$116,000. The family owns their house, valued at \$360,000; mortgage and property taxes are \$29,000 annually. Assets, including savings, home equity, and investments, are \$235,000.

According to the SSS calculation, the estimated family contribution is \$72,000, or \$24,000 per child.

**Adjusted Gross Income:** \$350,000

**Net Assets:** \$235,000

**Taxes (State and Federal withheld):** \$116,000

**SSS Calculation for Educational Expenses:** \$72,000

**Flexible Tuition Paid per student: \$24,000**

### Will filing for Flexible Tuition diminish the chances of my child being accepted to Hawken?

Admission applications and Flexible Tuition applications are reviewed separately, and submitting an application for Flexible Tuition has no bearing on an applicant's admissibility. In addition, Flexible Tuition applications are confidential.

All Flexible Tuition decisions are considered to be confidential agreements between Hawken School and the recipient family and should be treated accordingly. Faculty and administrators are not privy to any family's financial materials, nor are they aware of which families apply for or receive Flexible Tuition.

### How do we apply for Flexible Tuition?

Hawken subscribes to School and Student Services (SSS) by Community Brands to process Flexible Tuition applications. SSS is used by over 2,000 schools across the country. Families interested in applying for Flexible Tuition may begin the application process as early as October 1 at [hawken.edu/affordability](http://hawken.edu/affordability).

The need-based Flexible Tuition application is separate from the admission application but should be completed at the same time in order to be considered. Complete instructions are provided on our website at [hawken.edu/affordability](http://hawken.edu/affordability). Prospective families must complete the Flexible Tuition application by the deadline to be considered for Flexible Tuition.

\$148,327

average income of Flexible Tuition families

\$13,753

average family contribution for Flexible Tuition families

To offer flexibility for families, Hawken offers a variety of payment plans:

- 1 One payment due in August
- 2 Two payments due in August and January
- 3 10 monthly payments

**If we receive Flexible Tuition this year, will we pay the same amount in future years? Do we need to apply again?**

Tuition at Hawken typically increases each year for all families. Generally, families who qualify and receive Flexible Tuition pay part of any annual tuition increase, and Hawken takes on part as well. However, every family must reapply and qualify for Flexible Tuition each year and meet all stated deadlines (please see the chart below). If the current financial picture for a family changes significantly, the amount of Flexible Tuition will be adjusted accordingly to reflect the family's demonstrated need.

Flexible Tuition Contribution  
Ranges, Grades K-12

\$500 to \$33,000

### *Case Study #3*

This is a family of three, with two working parents and one child. The combined income of the parents is \$66,000. State and federal taxes withheld amounted to \$5,700. The family rents their home at a cost of \$15,000 per year. Assets, including savings and investments, are \$10,000.

According to the SSS calculation, the estimated family contribution is \$5,200

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <b>Adjusted Gross Income:</b>                    | \$66,000 |
| <b>Net Assets:</b>                               | \$10,000 |
| <b>Taxes (State and Federal withheld):</b>       | \$5,700  |
| <b>SSS Calculation for Educational Expenses:</b> | \$5,200  |

**Flexible Tuition Paid:** \$5,200

## Important Dates:

**October 1:** Flexible Tuition Application Opens

**January 15:** Flexible Tuition Application with all required documents due for Prospective Families

**February 12:** Flexible Tuition Notification Date

*Rolling Applicants, the Flexible Tuition application is due with your admission application.*

## How do families in multiple households apply for Flexible Tuition?

Each parent/guardian household must submit a separate Flexible Tuition application along with all tax documents and required forms to be considered for Flexible Tuition. Consideration of all available resources from both parents/guardians and their spouses or live-in partners will be based upon the belief that a family's

contribution for education is a reflection of "the ability to contribute, not the willingness to contribute," which is standard NAIS/SSS policy. As a result, Hawken is not bound by existing decrees, agreements, or arrangements exempting a parent from financial responsibility for educational costs. All financial information is kept strictly confidential, and at no time will one household have access to the others'

information. Hawken determines Flexible Tuition for the student, and it is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to determine a payment schedule structure.

If a parent/guardian is no longer involved in the life of the child in any way, please speak directly with Hawken's director of Flexible Tuition at (440) 423-2986 to determine how to proceed.

## Case Study #4

This is an example of a family with multiple households. All financial information is kept strictly confidential, and at no time will one household have access to the others' information. There are two children, who each attend tuition-charging schools. Both households have allowable unusual expenses of \$3,000 each.

Parent 1 has an income of \$80,000, with federal and state taxes amounting to \$9,400 and a net worth of \$60,000. The house is owned, with an annual mortgage and taxes of \$20,000.

Parent 2 has an income of \$73,000, with federal and state taxes amounting to \$11,900 and a net worth of \$40,000. The house is owned, with an annual mortgage and taxes of \$17,000.

According to the SSS calculation, the estimated combined family contribution is \$10,100, or \$5,050 per child.

|   | Household 1 | Household 2 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Adjusted Gross Income:</b>                         | \$80,000    | \$73,000    |
| <b>Net Assets:</b>                                    | \$60,000    | \$40,000    |
| <b>Taxes (State and Federal Withheld):</b>            | \$9,400     | \$11,900    |
| <b>SSS Calculation for Educational Expenses:</b>      | \$5,800     | \$4,300     |
| <b>Combined Calculation for Educational Expenses:</b> | \$10,100    |             |

**Flexible Tuition Paid per student: \$5,050**

# James A. Hawken Merit Scholarship Awards

The majority of Hawken's tuition reductions are based solely on a family's demonstrated financial need. However, a highly select group of high school students will be eligible for merit scholarships through the James A. Hawken Merit Scholarship Program based on the strength of their academic record, personal qualities, and anticipated future contributions to Hawken School.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for a James A. Hawken Merit Scholarship Award, a student must be an applicant for admission to Hawken as a new ninth or tenth grade student and must complete all components of the admission application process by the deadline. Current 8th grade Hawken students are also eligible to apply for a merit scholarship.

Candidates for the James A. Hawken Merit Scholarship Awards will be outstanding individuals with exceptional records of achievement and potential as demonstrated through academic performance.

A successful candidate will also be well-rounded in their engagement outside the classroom and exhibit leadership potential and exemplary personal qualities consistent with the mission of Hawken. Character, intellect, and integrity are among the defining qualities of a James A. Hawken Merit Scholarship Award recipient.

## Selection Process

Semifinalists for the James A. Hawken Merit Scholarship Awards will be selected by the Admission Committee from Hawken's applicant pool. Typically, semifinalists represent the top 10-15% of Hawken's applicant pool, have excellent transcripts and recommendations from their current schools, and standardized test scores above the 90th percentile.

The Admission Office will invite semifinalists to return to Hawken for the James A. Hawken Merit Scholarship Semifinalist Event. Following this event, the Selection Committee will select the recipients of the James A. Hawken Merit Scholarship Awards and send notification with their admission decision.

## Merit Scholarship Awards

Students selected as recipients of a James A. Hawken Merit Scholarship Award will receive annual awards up to \$15,000. The total number of awards and the amount of each recipient's award will be at the discretion of the Selection Committee.

Merit Scholarship Awards will be renewed on an annual basis for each year that a James A. Hawken Scholarship Award recipient is enrolled at Hawken, contingent upon the student remaining in good standing socially and academically.



Get started:  
[hawken.edu/affordability](http://hawken.edu/affordability)



