



TUITION & AFFORDABILITY

2019-20 Academic Year

Enrolling your child in an independent school is a family commitment—an academic commitment for the student and a financial commitment for the parents. Making the decision to invest in a York School education offers vast opportunities and lifelong benefits for your child.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Several payment options and a strong need-based tuition assistance program have been developed to help families in financing this opportunity.

A tuition deposit is required of all families when enrollment contracts are signed. York School offers three payment options for the remaining balance:

- one payment, due July 1
- two payments, due July 1 and November 1
- 10-month payment plan, due May-February

Installment payment plans require tuition insurance; see the Tuition and Fees section inside for details. The 10-payment plan is administered by a third party provider. Please contact the York School Business Office at 831.372.7338 x134 or x135 for more information about these plans. Families interested in a loan program may contact a financial service provider or Your Tuition Solution at yourtuitionsolution.com.

NEED-BASED TUITION ASSISTANCE

York School seeks to enroll the most qualified applicants regardless of their financial circumstances. It is committed to making its education accessible to families with as wide an income range as possible in an equitable, respectful, and confidential manner. York's commitment to tuition assistance is not only a critical part of its mission but also an important part of what makes it an exceptional school with students who are diverse in their talents and ethnic, racial, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds.

No student or family should hesitate to apply for admission because of inability to pay the entire cost. Decisions about tuition assistance are made separately from admission decisions and are influenced by an applicant's financial profile, availability of funds, and institutional needs.

continued



TUITION ASSISTANCE TIMELINE 2019-20

Visit york.org/tuition-assistance to begin the process. Watch the tuition assistance workshop video, review the PFS Workbook then complete the Parent Financial Statement (PFS) online as soon as possible—estimated financial information may be used.

OCTOBER 2

Begin the Personal Financial Statement (PFS) by visiting School & Student Services at solutionsbyyss.com/parents. York's school code is 8386

FEBRUARY 1

Deadline to complete and submit the PFS; York's school code is 8386

FEBRUARY 21

Tax deadline; submit completed, signed 2019 federal tax returns (1040 and W-2s); new applicants must also submit completed, signed 2018 federal tax returns

AWARD NOTIFICATION March-April 2020

IMPORTANT: A file is considered complete when the PFS and 2019 federal tax returns (and 2018 returns for new applicants) are received from both parents, jointly or separately, including signatures, all schedules, W-2s, and attachments. If applicable, also include corporate or partnership tax forms and/or K-1s.

Please do not assume that any of the requirements do not apply to you. If you feel you cannot meet the expectations outlined here, you are encouraged to call and discuss your situation.

For additional information, please contact Vicki Norman, Tuition Assistance Coordinator, at 831.372.7338 x134 or vnorman@york.org.

In 2019-20, York provided \$1,978,790 in grants to 96 students, an average award of \$20,612 or 56% of tuition. Tuition assistance was awarded to 50% of students, twice the national average among independent day schools.

APPLYING FOR ASSISTANCE

The primary responsibility for financing an education rests with the family. After carefully reviewing its own means and any other options such as payment plans, loan options, or assistance from relatives or friends, any family who believes that its resources are not enough to meet tuition costs is encouraged to apply. It is important, however, for families to know from the outset that the School does not have the resources to meet the need of every family who may qualify for tuition assistance. The School makes its best effort to assist as many students as possible. The needs of currently enrolled students and the School's enrollment across the grades are considered when making decisions about whom to assist.

To make the fairest estimate of a family's ability to pay tuition, York uses School and Student Services (SSS), which analyzes individual financial statements and recommends an amount that each family can contribute to a child's education. The methodology considers income from all sources: assets (savings, investments, home equity, other real estate, vehicles, etc.); mortgage and other debts; family size; age of parents; and number of children enrolled in tuition-charging schools or undergraduate college programs.

When you are ready to begin the process, visit york.org/tuition-assistance. View the tuition assistance workshop video and review the PFS Workbook. Use this information to help fill out the online Parent Financial Statement (PFS) at solutionsbyyss.com/parents after October 2. York's school code is 8386.

Use estimated financial information to complete the PFS—you do not need to wait for your taxes to be complete. Please fill out the PFS as soon as possible, and provide detailed information about unusual circumstances. Deadline for submittal is February 1, 2020. You must

also provide a copy of your 2019 federal tax return (Form 1040, W-2s, and all schedules and attachments) as part of your PFS application.* New applicants for tuition assistance should also provide a copy of their 2018 federal tax returns as part of their PFS application.*

All tuition assistance applicants must submit their tax returns by February 21, 2020. Promptness in meeting deadlines is essential. Requests received after this date will be considered only if funds are still available.

Because of the time-sensitive nature of the process, families who apply must file their taxes on time and may not file for an extension with the IRS. Late tax filing will disqualify a family from receiving an award.

RETURNING STUDENTS

York reviews all requests for returning student assistance annually. A family can typically expect tuition assistance to continue until graduation, provided demonstrated financial need remains. The award may vary from year to year based on a family's finances. If the family's ability to contribute to the student's education increases, the amount awarded will decrease accordingly. If the family's ability to pay decreases, the School will make every effort to raise the level of assistance awarded.

PARENTS WHO ARE DIVORCED, SEPARATED, OR NOT MARRIED

While a student's biological parents have primary responsibility for his or her education, York considers the income and assets of any adult who plays a significant role in a student's life. All adults (mothers, fathers, stepparents, partners, guardians, etc.) are expected to submit the required PFS and tax returns to determine the expected parent contribution. The obligations of a parent or stepparent to their other children will be taken into consideration. All information is kept confidential. If one parent has no contact with the family, the custodial parent should submit a letter from a third party—clergy, school administrator, or other individual—who can verify the family situation.

**Tax returns may be uploaded directly to SSS at solutionsbyyss.com/parents or dropped off in York's Business Office by the deadline.*

AWARD DISTRIBUTION 2019-20

TOTAL TUITION ASSISTANCE **\$1,978,790**

First-time award recipients	32
Returning student recipients	64
TOTAL STUDENTS AWARDED	96

Percentage of student body receiving assistance 50%

Average award in 2019-20 \$20,612

Median award in 2019-20 \$21,000

Average award % of tuition 56%

2019-20 evaluations were based on 2018 income and assets; 2020-2021 evaluations will be based on 2019 income and assets.



York School values and admits students of any national or ethnic origin, race, religion, ancestry, family makeup, sex, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, or socioeconomic status to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities available to students at the School, and the School does not discriminate on the basis of these factors in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, tuition assistance program, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

TUITION AND FEES 2019-20

Tuition figures listed below illustrate the different payment options. Tuition costs are evaluated annually. Tuition for 2020-21 will be determined in winter 2020. Additional expenses for transportation and special programs may be incurred.

TUITION **\$36,495**

FULL PAY—ONE PAYMENT

Tuition deposit (non-refundable)	\$ 3,650
July payment	\$32,845
TOTAL	\$36,495

FULL PAY—TWO PAYMENTS

Tuition deposit (non-refundable)	\$ 3,650
First tuition payment—July	\$16,423
Tuition insurance (mandatory/approx. 2% of net tuition)—July	\$ 700
Second tuition payment—November	\$16,423
TOTAL	\$37,196

FULL PAY—TEN PAYMENTS

Tuition deposit (non-refundable)	\$ 3,650
Administrative fee—May	\$ 660
10 equal payments of \$3,154—May-February	\$32,845
Tuition insurance (mandatory/approx. 2% of net tuition)—July	\$ 700
TOTAL	\$37,855

TUITION ASSISTANCE—TWO PAYMENTS (EXAMPLE ONLY)

Net tuition (assuming \$21,000 grant):	\$15,495
Tuition deposit (non-refundable/approx. 10% of net tuition)	\$ 1,550
First tuition payment—July	\$ 6,973
Tuition insurance (mandatory/approx. 2% of net tuition)—July	\$ 310
Second tuition payment—November	\$ 6,972
TOTAL	\$15,805

FEES AND EXPENSES

Textbooks (estimated)	\$400-500
Wifi enabled device (BYOD)	\$250-999
Graduation fee (seniors)	\$250

Examples shown are based on domestic tuition; for information regarding international student tuition, fees, expenses, and payments contact the Admission Office.

SUPPORT THE YORK SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Like all independent schools, York School depends on philanthropic support from its community to help cover the full cost of educating its students. Donations to The York Fund, our annual giving program, help balance the budget and support various elements of the York student experience—talented faculty, robust offerings in the arts and athletics, technology upgrades, and campus improvements. Parents are encouraged to participate in The York Fund by making an annual donation to the School. Our goal is to have 100% of families contributing to The York Fund at a level that is both meaningful and comfortable, depending on their financial situation.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is the meaning of “need-based tuition assistance” and how is it determined?

Need is the difference between school tuition and your family’s ability to pay the educational expenses. The PFS gives an objective picture of how much you can afford to contribute toward education. The Tuition Assistance Committee reviews the estimated family contribution provided by SSS and makes adjustments based on the family’s current federal tax returns. A cost of living adjustment (COLA) is also applied to reflect the higher cost of living in California. The Tuition Assistance Committee weighs the resulting financial need against available funds. Keep in mind that applying for assistance does not guarantee eligibility, and being eligible does not guarantee that funds will be available.

Can you give me an estimate of what my family’s award will be?

No. Given the many variables that affect an award decision, it is impossible to accurately predict a family’s contribution without reviewing all of the paperwork. Grants can range from about 5% to 75% of need.

Does applying for tuition assistance jeopardize the admission decision?

No. York School accepts students on the basis of personal and academic merit. When reviewed by the Admission Committee, student files contain no information about tuition assistance. After admission decisions are made, the Tuition Assistance Committee works to provide funds to as many students as possible.

Why does the SSS Family Report have a different expected contribution than the School?

Because the Tuition Assistance Committee recalculates all assistance applications to correct errors and apply York’s policies, the family contribution may differ from the one contained in the SSS Family Report and from figures determined by other schools. For example, York will apply a COLA factor,

will impute income for a parent able to but not currently working (unless they care for pre-school, disabled, or elderly family members), and will disallow losses attributable to second homes, investment properties, hobby businesses, and certain types of depreciation. On the other hand, York may allow certain expenses that are disallowed in the SSS calculation. If you feel that your financial circumstances are not adequately reflected in the PFS, you are encouraged to submit more detailed information and meet with the Tuition Assistance Coordinator.

Are merit scholarships awarded?

All tuition assistance at York School is based on demonstrated financial need, not on academic, athletic, artistic, or other merit.

If a family qualifies for assistance, will the entire financial need be met?

The amount of tuition a family is expected to pay is determined by both financial need and the availability of York School funds. Parents are expected to contribute according to their means; all families are expected to pay a portion of tuition—there are no full tuition grants.

When will I be notified about whether or not my child will receive tuition assistance? If accepted, is my child guaranteed financial support?

The admission notification date is March 10, 2020. Tuition assistance awards for new students will be sent as soon after that date as possible.

Despite the strong commitment to our tuition assistance program and to enrolling an economically diverse student body, it is likely that the number of accepted applicants who qualify for assistance will be greater than York is able to support. Therefore, some students who have been admitted to the school could be placed in the tuition assistance waiting pool. It is not unusual for additional funding to become available during the spring and summer, and that funding is directed to those in the waiting pool.

Will my information be kept confidential?

Yes. York School adheres to a strict policy of confidentiality with regard to all admission, personal, and financial information. The School expects families to keep all information about tuition assistance awards confidential as well.

Is tuition assistance available for international tuition?

Because international financial documentation comes from different economic systems, it is difficult to determine an appropriate grant for international students. We can only consider assistance applications from families who file U.S. tax forms to the IRS. Both parents must file U.S. tax forms to be eligible for tuition assistance.

Does my family need to reapply for tuition assistance each year?

Yes. Renewal of the award is based on continued financial need, so completed PFS forms and tax returns must be submitted in a timely fashion each year.

After we review the tuition assistance offer, is there an appeal process if we find we still cannot pay tuition?

Yes. In some cases, additional information helps to clarify the financial picture and can lead to an increased award. In other cases, the additional information does not result in a change. Many find it helpful to meet with the Tuition Assistance Coordinator to discuss their particular situation.

If my family doesn’t receive an award the first year, should we apply again?

While every attempt is made to meet financial needs, requests for assistance frequently exceed available funding. Priority is given to returning students with demonstrated financial need; if you have need, but funds were not available, please consider applying again. If you were denied assistance because you did not qualify, please reapply if your financial situation changes.

Are there costs in addition to tuition?

Textbook costs vary by grade and the type of courses being taken. New books typically cost \$400-500 per year and may be purchased through our online bookstore, Amazon, or other booksellers. Book lists for the coming year and summer reading (with ISBN numbers) are available at the end of each school year.

York also has a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy that requires all students to bring an internet enabled device—computer, netbook, etc.—to school each day. The Business Office can assist families in ordering equipment at reasonable rates; please see the York website for more details at york.org/byod.