

## **AFFORDING A SEQUOYAH SCHOOL EDUCATION**

### **TUITION**

Tuition is set each year, and ranges along an index. On average, 30-40% of our students pay less than the top tuition.

Sequoyah relies upon families of new applicants to disclose potential need at the time of their original application to the school. If your family is not assigned a lower tuition level upon admission, and unless your family experiences an adverse change in circumstances, the school anticipates that your family will be paying the top tuition in subsequent years.

### **SEQUOYAH'S COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY**

Sequoyah's commitment to the principals of mutual respect, inclusion and equity informs an admissions process and tuition structure which allow for a school community that includes a broad spectrum of social, economic, cultural and ethnic groups. Students who attend are encouraged to become celebrants of life with an appreciation of creativity and humor, and a sensitivity to and understanding of our diverse society.

Because we regard socioeconomic diversity as a core educational value, Sequoyah dedicates a significant portion of operating revenue to support Indexed Tuition. In addition to tuition payments, we ask all families to make a philanthropic contribution to the school each year, according to their means. Annual giving directly contributes to our commitment to sustaining an inclusive school community. We value every gift.

### **HOW DO FAMILIES AFFORD SEQUOYAH?**

Few families at independent schools find it easy to pay tuition. Most adjust their spending priorities, and carefully manage family income and assets to do so. At Sequoyah, we expect parents to give their children's education a very high priority in their financial planning. The assumption is that every family will determine their own resources and explore other possible sources of support before applying for a lower tuition level. However, many families will need to apply no matter how carefully they manage their finances or secure other sources of support.

We encourage families who have concerns about their ability to afford the top tuition to apply for a lower level. For those who do apply, we will set tuition based on their unique financial situation.

The school and participating families are committed to keeping all aspects of the indexed tuition application process in confidence.

### **WHAT IS INDEXED TUITION?**

An Indexed Tuition program is one where families pay a tuition rate based on their financial means. At Sequoyah, families pay rates that range along an index. Approximately 30-40% of our students will be assigned less than the maximum tuition level set each year.

### **SHOULD MY FAMILY APPLY FOR A LOWER LEVEL OF TUITION?**

If you judge that you can, with deliberate planning, afford the maximum tuition, then you should not apply to be assigned a lower level of tuition. However, if this is not possible, then you should follow the application procedure listed below.

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Because family circumstances vary widely, it is very difficult to provide hard and fast guidelines by which you determine your own eligibility. However, based on recent experience we anticipate that families whose income fits in a range of less than \$25,000 up to \$150,000 may qualify for a lower level. In calculating each family's ability to pay, Sequoyah considers many factors, including the number of children enrolled in private school, medical expenses, and family commitments. There is no specific income level at which a family is no longer eligible.

## **HOW DO WE APPLY?**

Families should note that the time frame for this process moves quickly. The deadline for the 2016-2017 school year is February 8, 2016.

You may wish to attend our Indexed Tuition/SSS workshop for applying families on Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 6:30p.m., in Sequoyah School's Infinity Room.

To apply:

1. Complete the SSS application form by February 8, 2016. You may access the form online at [sssbynais.org/parents](http://sssbynais.org/parents)
2. Upload your Federal Income Tax Return directly to the SSS website ([sssbynais.org/parents](http://sssbynais.org/parents)).  
If you are unable to provide your tax return by February 8, 2016, please contact the Sequoyah School Business Manager, Tom Wheatley at 626.795.4351 x217 or [twheatley@sequoyahschool.org](mailto:twheatley@sequoyahschool.org)

Complete all forms online. Sequoyah's Business Office does not require hard copies.

For questions about Indexed Tuition, please contact the Sequoyah School Business Manager, Tom Wheatley at 626.795.4351 x217 or [twheatley@sequoyahschool.org](mailto:twheatley@sequoyahschool.org). He is available to answer any questions.