



## Tuition Assistance Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What if one parent doesn't work?**

**A:** In a two-parent family, if only one parent works outside of the home, the Financial Aid Committee will add \$20,000 to the income of the family and will recalculate the family contribution. Exceptions would be if the parent at home is caring for a preschool aged child, a child with a disability, a seriously ill child, parent or grandparent, or other special circumstances.

**Q: Do divorced parents need to set up a separate account and complete a separate PFS?**

**A:** Yes. If your child's parents reside in different households, each parent will need to create separate accounts so that each can do an application of his or her own. Do not put the other parent's information on your PFS if you don't live together.

**Q: If you are divorced, I understand that each parent has to submit separate PFSs; however, does the stepparent's information have to be included as well?**

**A:** Yes. The PFS is intended to capture a picture of the resources available within a household to meet its costs. Stepparent income, assets, expenses, and debts must be included to provide the full picture of your overall financial strength.

**Q: What if the custodial parent has not heard from the non-custodial parents?**

**A:** The custodial parent can complete a Parent B waiver for review and approval by the Committee to waive Parent B from needing to apply.

**Q: Can International Students apply for financial aid?**

**A:** Yes, please email [Pearson Alspach](#) for the correct form.

**Q: How is a family's financial contribution determined?**

**A:** Steamboat Mountain School and *Student Services for Financial Aid (SSS)* will make an award based on the financial information you provide on the Parent's Financial Statement (PFS). SSS gives us an estimated amount your family can contribute to educational expenses. Please note that the SSS figure is only a recommendation. To make our award decisions, we use the SSS figures as a baseline for our own additional review, taking into consideration our total financial aid budget, our school's policies and priorities, the needs of our entire applicant pool, and the time of year. We may ask a family to contribute more to tuition than the estimation on the SSS Family Report. As part of our process, we always consider applications from current families first before we award Tuition Assistance to new families, so timely completion of the paperwork is essential to the application process.