



## Indexed Tuition

2023-2024

A Pacific Northern Academy education is an investment in your child's future. Our small classes, individual attention, and vigorous curriculum build a foundation for long-term success. While we believe that every family bears the primary responsibility for meeting the cost of providing their child with independent school education, PNA does not expect that every family can afford full tuition. We want families who are committed to the mission and values of PNA to attend. The PNA Indexed Tuition program is a resource for Kindergarten through Eighth-grade tuition based on a family's financial position.

Each year the PNA Board allocates a percentage of gross revenue to fund the Indexed Tuition program. PNA receives no outside funding from state or federal sources in a typical year and is not supported by any religious organizations. We rely on tuition, fees, donations, and annual fundraising to fund our operating budget. Tuition covers most of the school's annual expenditures, with the remaining funds dependent upon donations and fundraising.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q. How does PNA determine the annual allocation for Indexed Tuition?**

A. The Board of Trustees reviews and approves the annual budget and indexed tuition amounts yearly. Approximately 15% of gross tuition is allocated to Indexed Tuition each year.

### **Q. Will my family's application for Indexed Tuition impact our admissions decision?**

A. The Indexed Tuition application process happens at the same time as the admissions process, but the two processes are separate. The Admissions Committee makes decisions independent of your family's ability to pay full tuition. The Indexed Tuition Committee reviews each family's application and determines the amount of indexed tuition.

### **Q. Will every admitted student eligible for Indexed Tuition receive it?**

A. Unfortunately, no. We typically receive more applications for Indexed Tuition than available funds.

### **Q. How do I know if our family qualifies for Indexed Tuition?**

A. Your family should look at all your resources. If you believe you need indexed tuition to meet tuition costs, you should apply for determination. Indexed tuition amounts are awarded to families based on financial need. The Indexed Tuition Committee considers many factors when determining amounts, including income, assets, liabilities, parents' age, number and ages of children, other educational commitments, budget, and more.

### **Q. How do I apply for Indexed Tuition?**

A. PNA partners with TADS to process Indexed Tuition applications and to compute the amount for families seeking indexed tuition. TADS is PNA's third-party enrollment and billing agent. To apply for Indexed Tuition, sign on to [www.myTADS.com](http://www.myTADS.com) and choose Financial Aid Assessment. Complete the application before the school's published deadline. In addition to completing the requested information, you will be asked to submit supporting materials electronically before the deadline. An application is complete when the forms and all supporting information are received from all parents, either jointly or separately. TADS will audit each application for completeness and provide PNA's Indexed Tuition Committee with a full report once all documents have been provided. It is the family's responsibility to verify that their information is complete via the family portal in TADS. Late applications received after the deadline will only be considered if funds are still available.

**Q. Does PNA offer other programs or discounts in addition to Indexed Tuition?**

A. No, PNA only offers Indexed Tuition. We do not offer merit-based scholarships, discounts for prepayments, or loans.

**Q. Does PNA offer automatic credit for multiple siblings?**

A. PNA does not offer an automatic sibling discount. Families with more than one child at PNA may qualify for Indexed Tuition and are encouraged to apply.

**Q. How are my financial status and ability to pay evaluated if I am separated, divorced, a non-custodial parent, or unmarried?**

A. PNA's policy for determining Indexed Tuition is based on the principle that all parents and guardians are responsible for the support and educational expenses of their children. A completed Indexed Tuition application, called a Financial Aid Assessment application in TADS, is required from all households with parents/guardians involved in the child's life regardless of any financial arrangements between households, court orders, and/or divorce decree. All submitted documents will be kept confidential. Details of individual financial information from one household will not be shared with the other household.

Waiving any part of this policy will require a written and signed statement explaining the non-involvement of a parent to the Indexed Tuition Committee in advance of the Indexed Tuition application deadline.

**Q. How is our family's ability to pay tuition evaluated if a parent in our household does not work?**

A. To maintain equity in our Indexed Tuition Program, unless specific circumstances require a parent not to work, the Indexed Tuition Committee will assign a salary to non-working parents. We respectfully ask you to submit an explanation of a household member's non-working status if you believe you qualify for an exemption.

**Q. What is the deadline to submit an application to TADS?**

A. The deadline to submit a completed application in TADS is **February 28, 2023**.

**Q. What if I miss the Indexed Tuition application deadline? Can I still apply?**

A. Yes, though the likelihood of receiving Indexed Tuition is significantly reduced. Indexed tuition applications received after stated deadlines will be processed after all on-time applications have been processed. Funds are usually fully allocated to on-time Indexed Tuition applicants and are not often available for late applicants.

**Q. Is Indexed Tuition automatically renewed each year? Will our amount be the same each year?**

A. Indexed tuition amounts are evaluated on an annual basis. Returning families must reapply yearly, meet all stated deadlines, and complete all documentation. Assuming the resources of the School to award Indexed Tuition and the family's financial circumstances remain the same from year to year, we will make every attempt to keep the Indexed Tuition consistent. Indexed tuition for returning students is contingent upon the student's successful completion of the prior school year and full payment of all financial obligations outlined in the Family Agreement for the year.

**Q. When will my family learn if we have been offered Indexed Tuition?**

A. The first round of admissions offers of placement for 2023–2024 is on **March 17, 2023**. With an admissions offer, a family who has applied for Indexed Tuition by the February 28, 2023, deadline, will also receive a response on their Indexed Tuition amount.

*Note: Current families applying for Indexed Tuition must submit their applications by the stated Priority Deadline on **February 28, 2023**, and will be notified of decisions on **March 10, 2023**.*

**Q. Does PNA require a minimum contribution from families, or can Indexed Tuition cover the entire cost of PNA?**

A. Indexed Tuition applies exclusively to tuition. Families are required to contribute a minimum of 50%. It does not reduce any other costs associated with attending PNA, e.g., Spring Trips, Panther Care, or other after-school Enrichment programs.

**Q. What tax information is required for my Indexed Tuition application? Why do you require this documentation?**

A. All families applying for Indexed Tuition must provide a copy of their federal tax returns, W2 forms, corporate tax returns (if applicable), and supporting tax documents and schedules to TADS as supporting documentation for each Financial Aid Assessment application. The Indexed Tuition Committee requires these documents to confirm anticipated/estimated incomes documented on the PFS. Decisions will be based on estimated income, assets, and expenses, and are offered on a provisional basis until the final tax return is provided. Failure to provide these forms, or a significant difference between the estimated and actual return, may result in the reduction or withdrawal of any provisional Indexed Tuition offered.

**Q. Who will see my Indexed Tuition application and supporting documents?**

A. All TADS Financial Aid Assessment applications and supporting documentation are treated as confidential. They are made available only to PNA's Indexed Tuition Committee members solely to make the Indexed Tuition decision.

**Q. Is there a fee to apply for Indexed Tuition?**

A. TADS charges a \$40 fee for each Financial Aid Assessment application. PNA does not charge additional fees for processing those applications.

**Q. How does the Indexed Tuition Committee Prioritize Applications?**

A. We prioritize Indexed Tuition applications as follows:

- First Priority
  - Returning students receiving tuition assistance in 2022-2023.
  - PNA faculty and staff.
- Second Priority
  - Siblings of returning students currently receiving tuition assistance.
  - Returning PNA families demonstrating a significant change in financial circumstances since initial enrollment, and who are applying for Indexed Tuition for the first time.
- Third Priority
  - New students applying for Indexed Tuition by the application deadline.
- Fourth Priority
  - All applications that are received after the stated deadlines.

## Non-Discrimination Statement

*PNA does not discriminate based on gender, race, color, religion, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, or any other basis protected by law in employment or administration of admissions or programs.*