



FINANCIAL AID

PURPOSE, PROCESS & POLICIES

Mission & Purpose

Hill Learning Center is committed to expanding access to Hill's programs, transforming students with learning differences into confident, independent learners. We acknowledge that systemic inequalities can impact a family for generations. Our commitment to affordability of over \$500,000 each year ensures Hill is accessible to students who struggle in traditional classrooms. We strive to build fair and equitable decision-making into our process, ensuring our funds are distributed to those who need it most. This approach allows more students to access a Hill education regardless of their financial background.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Hill's Financial Aid program is a partnership between families and Hill to reduce financial barriers for families from a multitude of backgrounds and circumstances.

Hill currently provides financial aid to about 36% of students through grants funded by the operating budget and awards. Everyone is encouraged to apply for aid, but ultimately the primary financial responsibility lies with the family. Families may need to adjust discretionary income and lifestyle choices, prioritizing education over other expenses.

The admission and financial aid processes are separate, but financial need is considered during admissions. There are often more qualified students than available funding. The Financial Aid Committee reviews, evaluates and determines a fair assessment of a family's financial need based on information submitted in the financial aid application.

About Hill Financial Aid

Hill's Financial Aid program is designed to make a Hill education possible for all families based on demonstrated financial need and the availability of funds. Hill uses [Clarity](#), a third-party system, to determine a family's level of financial need based on the information that families share in the application which includes assets, income, expenses, and debts.

Financial aid awards are based on a family's demonstrated need in Clarity as determined by factors like income, expenses, and debt, as well as Hill's total financial aid budget, the applicant pool need, school policies and procedures, and other additional information acquired during the financial aid process.

Financial Aid Application Process

In order to make decisions in a fair, equitable, and timely manner, Hill requires all applicants to complete an application and submit the required documents. Financial aid must be applied for each year.

APPLICATION STEPS

1. [Create or log in to your Clarity Account](#). Review the **Clarity Family Application Guide** ([English](#) / [Spanish](#)) for step-by-step application instructions and tips.
2. Start with your applicant and household information. Sign and submit a Form 4506c to give Clarity permission to pull your prior year tax returns.
3. Complete your financial information, including income, expenses, assets, and debts.
4. The application fee is \$60 per household and covers all the Clarity schools to which you are applying.
5. Check the "Document Requests" panel on your portal to see what you need to upload. Additional documents may be required upon request.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Form 1040 for 2023
- Form W-2 for 2023 & 2024
- Most recent paystub(s)
- Other documents
 - Partnership business owners: Form 1065
 - C-corp business owners: Form 1120
 - S-corp business owners: Form 1120S

In addition to gathering data, Hill asks questions specific to the school to collect additional information, including intentions to apply for state funding, other schools the student attends and if they receive financial aid from those institutions, and an open-ended section to explain additional circumstances that aren't easily captured in the application.

TIMELINE

Families must reapply for aid each year to be considered for an award.

- **Returning Hill students** should submit applications by **January 15, 2025**, regardless of whether they have applied for or received financial aid in the past.
 - This date provides returning families priority consideration and notification of an award within the re-enrollment window.
- **New families** should apply for financial aid at the same time that they apply for admission. Any financial aid applications received after the deadline below will be considered so long as funding is available.

Application Deadline	Notifications Begin
Wed, February 5, 2025	Wed, March 5, 2025
Wed, March 5, 2025	Wed, April 2, 2025

Policies

TOTAL FAMILY PHILOSOPHY

Hill expects to have a cooperative and communicative relationship with all parents or guardians of our students. All parents, guardians, domestic partners, and stepparents should play a critical role in financing a student's education.

- In the case of cohabitation, Hill considers the entire household income regardless of the legal status of the family.
- In the case of divorce or separation, all households, including stepparents and/or domestic partners, should complete an application in Clarity.

Awards are granted to the student, not to the household. It is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to determine how the financial aid award is divided.

MULTIPLE TUITION-CHARGING SCHOOLS

If more than one child in a family attends a tuition-charging school, Hill encourages families to apply for aid at all institutions. Hill is unable to subsidize tuition for other tuition-charging schools of any type.

RETIREMENT

Hill does not expect money in qualified retirement accounts, such as a 401(k), 403(b), IRA, and pension, to be used to pay tuition. Funds in non-qualified retirement accounts, such as regular brokerage accounts, savings, and equity in second homes, will be treated as assets.

HOME EQUITY

Clarity considers the equity a family has in their primary residence as well as other assets. It is not our expectation that families sell their home or take a home equity loan to support a child's education. Business income and investment properties are viewed at their full value. If a family has directed discretionary income toward the acquisition of assets (rental or second homes, etc.) rather than toward the cost of education, they will be expected to direct a larger portion of current income toward educational expenses.

FAMILY LIFESTYLE DECISIONS

Hill recognizes that each family makes its own decisions as to how to spend discretionary income and that it can be spent in many ways, including things like tuition, home improvements, student enrichment (lessons, sports, etc.), cars, memberships, or travel. The Financial Aid Committee has an obligation to ensure that resources are going to applicants who prioritize discretionary spending toward a Hill education.

BUSINESS INCOME

Parents and guardians owning a business must submit a copy of their current business tax return and any additional related forms to Clarity. Business owners are expected to supply all applicable tax statements, such as a 1120S for an S-Corp or a 1065 for a partnership.

Other Considerations

CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES

Hill reserves the right to amend aid awards if new information comes to light. It is the responsibility of the family to notify the school of any change in circumstances at any time during the financial aid application process and/or school year.

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS

Hill reserves the right to not process applications if information isn't delivered in a timely manner or if information is not accurate. If a clear financial picture cannot be created through documentation, the application will be rejected and an award cannot be granted.

TUITION REFUND INSURANCE

All families receiving Hill financial aid are required to purchase Tuition Refund Insurance (TRI) from DeWar. Rates are based on the number of hours attending Hill and for the 2024-25 school year ranged from \$365-\$500. More information is available [here](#).

Tuition & Fees

Families are required to pay an enrollment deposit upon enrollment, regardless of financial aid status. Enrollment and tuition agreements must be completed by the provided enrollment deadline. If they are not complete, Hill reserves the right to release the financial aid award for other applicants.

Hill releases tuition information for the 2025-2026 school year in January 2025.

2024-2025 TUITION

Tuition & Fees	Cost	Optional Programs	Cost
Half Day Program K-8 & Upper School 3 classes	\$24,990	Financial Aid Application Fee non-refundable	\$60
Two-Class Option Grades 9-12 only	\$21,200	Tuition Refund Insurance required for FA recipients	\$365-\$500
One-Class Option Grades 9-12 only	\$18,250	Study Hall M-Th, PM students	\$1600
Application Fee non-refundable	\$85		
New Student Fee non-refundable	\$700		
Enrollment Fee non-refundable	\$1500		

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FUNDING

Hill Learning Center participates in two North Carolina state-funded programs administered by the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA): the Opportunity Scholarship and Education Student Accounts Program (ESA+). Requirements for each program vary; families are encouraged to review [eligibility requirements](#) and visit the [NCSEAA website](#). Both programs use a lottery system and are based on qualifying applications.

NCSEAA Funding Opportunities

	Opportunity Scholarship	Education Student Accounts (ESA+)
What is it?	An income-based program to help families pay tuition and fees at private schools.	A program to help families of students with learning differences pay tuition at private schools.
Who qualifies?	All families can apply, regardless of income. Awards are determined based on income tiers.	Available to students with NC IEP eligibility.
How much is awarded?	Ranges from approximately \$3,000 to \$7,000	\$9,000 (Certain designated disabilities may be eligible to receive \$17,000 a year)
What can we use it for?	Non-public school tuition and fees only.	Tuition and fees, educational therapies, tutoring, and assistive technology.
When should we apply?	Applications open February 2025. Check the NCSEAA website for updated information.	Applications open February 2025. Check the NCSEAA website for updated information.
How can we use this at Hill? Because of Hill's half-day model, funding varies based on the type of school a student attends outside of Hill.	<p>If you attend a public school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can use all funds for Hill School • cannot use funds for Summer or Tutoring <p>If you attend a private or home school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can use all funds for Hill School • cannot use funds for Summer or Tutoring 	<p>If you attend a public school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can use half of funds for Hill School • cannot use funds for Summer or Tutoring <p>If you attend a private or home school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can use all funds for Hill School • can use all funds for Summer* or Tutoring

CONTACT

Tori Gredvig
 Director of Enrollment Management
 tgredvig@hillcenter.org
 919.719.7547

