

SOUTH TACOMA ADVENTIST FELLOWSHIP
PROMISE

EDUCATION ASSISTANCE POLICY

PHILOSOPHY

South Tacoma Adventist Fellowship (STAF) is committed to Adventist Christian Education which we believe to be essential to the development of a child's mental, social, physical, and spiritual well-being. We desire to inspire and motivate the church to further support Christian Education based on a belief that all true wisdom and knowledge comes from God.

We desire to make it possible that any member who desires Adventist Education for their child(ren) be able to send them to a Seventh-day Adventist K-8 school. By investing in our youth, we are further enabling them to develop a life of faith in Jesus and preparing them for citizenship in this world and the World to come.

POLICY

Because STAF is not a constituent member of any Seventh-day Adventist School, tuition fees for the member may be substantially higher than constituent rates. Accordingly, the STAF leadership Board has established an Education Assistance Policy—the "STAF Promise"—to subsidize the higher tuition costs.

I. FINANCIAL

Financial assistance of 50% of tuition--up to \$2,500--for the 2017-2018 school year is pledged through the STAF Ministries Budget. It is awarded to students meeting the eligibility requirements as funds are available and will be paid to the school, \$1,250 each semester the child is enrolled. This policy is *as funds are available*, and will be reviewed in July and January of the school year by STAF's Finance Committee.

II. ELIGIBILITY

- A. The applicant's primary caretaker(s) must be a member of STAF.
 - 1. For 2017-2018, no length of membership is required, and individuals with membership in active transfer are eligible.
 - 2. For 2018-2019, applicant must be a member of STAF for at least six months prior to eligibility.
 - 3. For 2019-2020, applicant must be a member of STAF for at least one year prior to eligibility.
- B. Each applicant family must be an active participant in the ministries of STAF.
 - 1. Family participation and regular Sabbath School and Church attendance. (Two Sabbaths per month minimum—including fellowship dinners, social events, VBS, Church Business Meetings, special weekend celebrations (about four per year), leadership responsibilities as asked, etc.--indicate "active participation" and "regular attendance".)
 - 2. Members should choose at least one area of ministry they are passionate about and become involved. STAF conducts about two evangelistic outreach series per year, and families are expected to be involved with at least one.
- C. Applicant families must be faithful in both their tithes and offerings to STAF. To ensure eligibility, families are encouraged to either give at the church website or by using an offering envelope in the pew at church.
- D. Students enrolled must maintain a C average with no Ds or Fs at quarterly reporting. Consideration will be given for special circumstances.

III. APPLICATION

- A. *STAF PROMISE* Applications are available from the STAF Office Administrator or through the church website. The forms must be fully completed and submitted to the STAF Office by August 10. It should be noted that applying for the *STAF PROMISE* does not include application to a church school. That is done separately and

independently from STAF by applicants at the school of their choice. Applications are for the immediate next school year only.

B. Evaluation and Approval

1. Applications will be reviewed by the STAF Finance Committee.
2. Recommendation of *eligible* applicants will go to the Church Board.
3. Applicants will be notified via letter or email of acceptance into the STAF Promise, and the available amount they can count on during the current school year.
4. Accompanying the acceptance letter will be a letter for the school stating the amount of tuition STAF will provide for eligible students.

IV. DEFINITIONS

STAF Church Member – A person who either by baptism, profession of faith, or transfer of membership from another SDA Church is reflected as a member of the South Tacoma Adventist Fellowship through the membership records maintained by the STAF Clerk.

Primary Caretaker – A person who is a parent, grandparent, or legal guardian of a child. This person is actively involved in the exercise of and performs parental duties including the emotional, disciplinary, spiritual, and financial support of a child.