

Financial Aid Information for GSSM Families

Commitment to Accessibility and Student Support

GSSM is committed to ensuring all students have access to the resources they need to succeed. The primary expenses associated with the residential program are the annual meal fee, one-time security deposit, and certain college-related expenses, such as those required to submit applications. GSSM does not earn a profit from any of these fees, and seeks to subsidize any expenses related to its residential program to the greatest extent possible.

Understanding each GSSM family has unique financial circumstances, the institution provides support to ensure that no student is unable to attend GSSM because of financial need. Financial Aid eligibility is based on the meal fee chart provided below. Any student who qualifies for meal fee assistance also qualifies for assistance for other needs, including but not limited to:

- School Supplies
- Residential and Basic Living Necessities (e.g., bedding, toiletries, etc.)
- Campus Life Activities (e.g., Prom, field trip, and costs associated with other special activities, **excluding** interim)
- Technology Needs
- Participation in Academic Teams and Competitions
- Certain Medical Equipment (e.g., prescription glasses)

Students or their parents or guardians may request financial assistance by contacting GSSM's Business Office directly at businessoffice@governors.school. Students who qualify for Financial Aid will also receive monthly e-mail reminders from the Business Office regarding the support that is available to ensure their success.

GSSM also provides support for college-related expenses, such as those related to exam fees or college applications. Students who qualify for Financial Aid should request fee waivers through the Office of College Counseling and Advising.

Financial Aid Eligibility

GSSM follows a need-blind admissions policy, ensuring all qualified students are considered for admission regardless of financial need. For Financial Aid purposes, the institution uses income guidelines established by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Free and Reduced-Price Meal Program, as approved by the GSSM Board of Trustees. The chart for determining financial need is provided below. To see if your family qualifies for a fee reduction, please match your household size (defined as the number of individuals living permanently within your home) with your household annual income.

In cases of significant financial hardship, partial or full fee waivers may be granted by the President of GSSM.

If you have any questions concerning Financial Aid eligibility or have any financial concerns, please contact the Business Office at businessoffice@governors.school.

Household Size	Annual Income at or Below	Annual income Between	Annual Income Between	Annual Income at or Above
1	\$19,578	\$19,579 to \$27,860	\$27,861 to \$39,646	\$39,647
2	\$26,572	\$26,573 to \$37,812	\$37,813 to \$53,809	\$53,810
3	\$33,566	\$33,567 to \$47,766	\$47,767 to \$67,973	\$67,974
4	\$40,560	\$40,561 to \$57,719	\$57,720 to \$82,135	\$82,136
5	\$47,554	\$47,555 to \$67,671	\$67,672 to \$96,298	\$96,299
6	\$54,548	\$54,549 to \$77,624	\$77,625 to \$110,460	\$110,461
7	\$61,542	\$61,543 to \$87,577	\$87,578 to \$124,624	\$124,625
8	\$68,536	\$68,537 to \$97,530	\$97,531 to \$138,787	\$138,788
Parents or Guardians Pay:	\$370	\$1,109	\$2,251	\$3,360
Financial Aid:	\$2,990	\$2,251	\$1,109	\$0

Financial Aid Request Deadline

The deadline to apply for Financial Aid is September 1; however, GSSM will consider hardship requests on an as-needed basis. Families who experience changes in their financial status or extenuating circumstances are encouraged to contact the Business Office for assistance regardless of whether they qualify for assistance based on the meal fee chart above.

Student Fees

GSSM only collects two fees for our residential students: the annual meal fee and a one-time room security deposit.

- The **Annual Student Meal Fee** is \$3,360, and this fee is applied to help offset the cost of food services provided by the Dining Hall. **Please note, the meal fee may increase by up to 5% annually due to inflation resulting from market conditions.** GSSM will provide notice to impacted families should the meal fee increase between the junior and senior year. The meal fee will never increase during the academic year.
- The **Room Security Deposit** is a one-time fee of \$100 that is required for incoming juniors. This fee is typically paid during the admissions acceptance process. It is refundable at the end of the senior year or within two weeks of withdrawal. Refunds will be processed through the original payment method, less any applicable charges for damages.

Fee Payment

The annual meal fee is due on or before August 1. Students will be charged the applicable rate during their junior and senior years. Families may choose to pay the fee in one lump sum or establish monthly

installments. Families who elect to pay the fee based on an installment plan must submit their first payment by this deadline of August 1 as well. The meal fee must be paid in full annually; GSSM will not roll over an existing balance between the junior and senior years.

Delinquent Payments

If a graduating senior's fees are not paid in full by May 1, the student will not receive his/her diploma nor will the official transcript be released until payment has been made or an agreement has been reached with the school. The diplomas will be mailed to the families upon payment completion. Other services may be withheld by GSSM for failure to make scheduled payments.

Monthly billings and statements will be issued by GSSM and it is the parent's responsibility to schedule timely payments. Please notify the Business Office in advance if a scheduled payment will be late. If a check (or other payment) is not honored by your bank, GSSM may require an alternate method of payment.

Rising seniors with outstanding balances will not be allowed to continue for their senior year at GSSM until the existing account balance is made current. Accounts may be made current by making payment in full, establishing a payment plan, or making payment on an existing payment plan.

Accepted Payment Methods

GSSM accepts debit or credit card payments online here:

<https://ssl.sc.gov/checkout/scgssmonlinepmts/residentialProgram.html>

Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover are all acceptable payment methods.

Although monthly payments cannot be established directly through GSSM, families can arrange recurring payments through their bank. Please ensure the student's name is included in the memo section.

GSSM does not charge interest for families using the school's payment plan.

Refunds

If a student withdraws or leaves GSSM for any reason, students fees will be refunded based on the following schedule:

Date of withdrawal: Refund Amount*:

Date of Withdrawal	Refund Amount
Prior to the opening day of school	Full Refund (\$3,360)
Opening Day - August 31	\$ 2,251
September 1 - 30	\$ 1,680
October 1 - 31	\$ 1,109
November 1 - 30	\$ 571
After December 1	No Refund

Refunds will be adjusted accordingly for students receiving Financial Aid.

Security Deposit Refund

A one-time, refundable room security deposit fee in the amount of **\$100** is charged during the admission process.

This fee, less any charges for room damages, will be refunded back to the parent/guardian of the GSSM's student at the end of the senior year via the method that it was paid.

If the payment was made via debit/credit card, a refund will be processed back to the card by June 30th at the end of the senior year.

If the payment was made via cash/check/money order, you will receive a check via mail from the Office of Comptroller's General by July 31st at the end of the senior year.

Students who withdraw or leave GSSM for any reason will be refunded, less any charges for room damages, within two weeks of their withdrawal date.