



Tuition Protection Plan Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is the Tuition Protection Plan in a nutshell?

This program is designed to protect the school against income losses due to early withdrawal, and it helps minimize any negative impacts on the operating budget. Each family pays a fee, and these funds are held in a reserve account. Funds can only be withdrawn to cover unexpected tuition losses, and only qualifying withdrawal events as defined in the tuition protection plan can be covered.

- All families who pay their tuition in installments—are required to participate.
- A fee of \$275 is required for the first child and \$137.50 for the second child. (No fee for the third child.)

2) Why do we need a Tuition Protection Plan now?

Historically, each year, the school has experienced some loss of income due to unexpected withdrawals, and as a non-profit, we have not carried a cash reserve. This plan will help the school to maintain its operating budget at a consistent level each year. Additionally, when the school refinanced its mortgage through the Rudolf Steiner Foundation Social Finance group, RSF recommended that the school design and implement a program like this as a good financial practice.

3) Is this program unique to the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh?

No, other Waldorf schools across the United States have a similar plan in place. In fact, WSP's Tuition Protection Plan was based on the plan already in place at the Waldorf School of the Peninsula in Los Altos, California. Additionally, regional private schools such as Ellis, Winchester Thurston and Shadyside Academy require that families using tuition payment plans use a tuition insurance program.

4) What are the benefits to each family?

Every family that participates in the Tuition Protection Plan would be able to receive a refund/tuition credit in the event of an early withdrawal, depending on the reason for withdrawal. Alternatively, withdrawing families that have not completed their tuition payments would have a certain percentage of their still-owed tuition forgiven according to the defined benefits outlined in the plan.

5) What are the benefits to the school?

In the event that a family must withdraw from the school prior to completing their tuition payments, funds from the tuition protection plan can be withdrawn to cover any payments that the family would not be required to remit. The school is expanding and will need to make significant capital improvements to the building in the coming years, and it is essential that there is stability in expected income for the upcoming years to accomplish these big goals.

6) Why do I have to pay another fee?

The school understands that this is a significant additional expense for our families, and is offering a discount for families with multiple children. Additionally, this is a typical school fee at other private or Waldorf schools.

7) Does the fee get returned to me at the end of the year?

No, the fee is not returned. It is essentially like an insurance payment and is placed into a fund where it is held in reserve against income losses due to withdrawal.