

Dear THINK Families –

The Davidson Institute utilizes an online service, Financial Aid for School Tuition (FAST), to process financial aid applications. FAST does not decide whether financial assistance will be given or how much to give; rather, FAST provides data collection and analysis including a recommendation of what a family should reasonably contribute toward educational expenses. The Davidson Institute Financial Assistance Committee reviews the information provided by FAST and makes the final decision as to whether or not a family is eligible for financial assistance. THINK families will be notified of the Committee's decision via email.

IMPORTANT: FAST applications are due concurrently with your 2024 Davidson THINK Summer Institute application and no later than March 29th, 2024, so notification of award status can be sent to you prior to the deposit deadline. This deadline is crucial if your decision to attend is dependent upon financial assistance.

- 1) To begin the application process, click on the “FAST” button at the bottom, right-hand corner of this page.
- 2) The application process is self-guided. You may navigate in and out of the program allowing you to partially complete an application and go back to it at another time. FAST provides a 24/7 helpline to answer any questions. *Please do not contact the Davidson Institute with questions regarding the online process for FAST.*
- 3) The non-refundable charge for the application is \$53.00 payable by credit card at the end of the session. Contrary to general policy, if your student is not accepted into the THINK Summer Institute, the Davidson Institute for Talent Development will provide a refund of \$53.00 for those families who completed the FAST application.
- 4) Because the primary responsibility for financing a child's education rests with the family, both parents are expected to contribute to educational expenses. In the case of divorce or separation, FAST requires **both** parents to submit their financial information on the application.
- 5) After completing the online application, you will receive an email from FAST requesting tax documents and instructing you on the methods of submission. Please note: you can avoid delays by making sure ALL pages of ALL returns are submitted to FAST. In addition to submitting all pages of your actual return(s), you will be asked to submit a copy of the IRS transcript(s) for your applicable return(s). You may obtain a copy at <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript>.
- 6) All requested forms must be received by FAST in order to complete your application. Upon completion, FAST will notify the Davidson Institute of their recommendations, and your application will be reviewed by our Financial Assistance Committee at their next scheduled meeting.
- 7) Once you receive notification that your financial assistance application is approved, you will receive instructions on the next steps of the process.

While the availability of resources and the number of qualified applicants influence financial assistance decisions, the Davidson Institute is committed to making grants available to as many eligible applicants as possible. Please keep in mind that the Davidson Institute has seen an increase in the number of families applying and qualifying for financial assistance; therefore, we must prioritize the distribution of funds we have available to assist families. Please note: the Davidson Institute financial assistance awards never cover 100% of any expense.

Sincerely,

Financial Assistance Coordinator
fac@davidsongifted.org

