



**University of Chicago Laboratory Schools
Tuition Remission Benefit Changes for University-Affiliated Families
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

As of January 28, 2020; Updated September 15, 2020

1. What are the changes to the Laboratory Schools tuition remission benefit?

The University is enhancing the tuition remission benefit for University-affiliated families with dependent children attending the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. Under the enhanced benefit, these families will continue to receive at least 50 percent tuition remission, with many families receiving a greater remission. The enhanced benefit details are as follows:

a. Tuition remission rates based on a sliding scale

- i. For families with total incomes less than \$250,000, the family share of the Laboratory Schools tuition for University-affiliated families will be 6.4 percent of the annual adjusted gross income (AGI), adjusted as follows, for the first child attending Lab: families will be assigned to AGI brackets of \$5,000 and pay 6.4 percent of the mean of the bracket. For example, a family with an AGI between \$80,000 and \$84,999 will pay 6.4 percent of \$82,500 for the first child.

Please see the end of these FAQs for a reference table showing what the first/oldest child's tuition obligation would be for each AGI bracket.

b. Higher income threshold for maximum tuition remission

- i. Previously, the threshold for receiving a discount of greater than 50 percent was \$200,000 AGI. The new benefit increases the threshold to \$250,000, which means more families will be able to benefit from the new tuition remission benefit.
- ii. Families earning \$250,000 or more AGI per year will continue to receive the current 50 percent tuition remission.
- iii. If the sliding scale results in a tuition rate that is above the 50% threshold for any student, the family will not pay more than 50% of the tuition cost for that child. For example, families earning \$185,000 or more AGI per year who have a child in half-day nursery school (N4-H) will pay \$11,939.50 (50% of \$23,879), which is less than the amount calculated using the sliding scale.

c. Discount for families with multiple children in the Laboratory Schools

- i. For families with more than one child attending the Laboratory Schools, the tuition obligation for each additional child attending Lab will be further reduced by \$2,000. The additional \$2,000 reduction will be applied to the lesser of 6.4% of AGI or the 50% threshold. See 4a below for additional explanation.

- *Tuition levels will continue to vary based on the tuition rates in high school, middle school, and lower school.*

- *Full-time union represented employees working under the terms and conditions of a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) will be subject to the tuition remission benefit specifically articulated in their CBA.*

2. When does the new tuition benefit go into effect?

- a. These tuition remission changes start with the 2020-2021 Laboratory Schools tuition cycle. *Please see the end of these FAQs for a reference table to see what the first/oldest child's tuition obligation would be for each AGI bracket.*

3. Do these changes impact eligibility for the Laboratory Schools benefit?

- a. No, eligibility for the benefit is unchanged. Direct any questions about eligibility to the HR Benefits team at benefits@uchicago.edu. For more information regarding eligibility, please



consult the current Educational Assistance Plan for the list of University positions eligible for this benefit or contact the HR Benefits team at benefits@uchicago.edu.

4. How does the multiple child discount work?

- a. By way of example, if a family has three children attending Lab, with two children attending grades 9 through 12 and one child attending grades 6 through 8, with an AGI of \$112,000, the family's tuition obligation for the first child will be \$7,200, and the tuition obligation for each of the second and third children will be \$5,200, for a total tuition obligation of \$17,600. For the same family with an AGI of \$250,000 or more, the tuition obligation for the first child will be \$18,467 (50% of \$36,933), the tuition obligation for the second child would be \$16,467 (50% of \$36,933 reduced by \$2,000) and the tuition obligation for the third child will be \$15,721 (50% of \$35,442 reduced by \$2,000), for a total tuition obligation of \$50,654.
- b. To demonstrate the application of the \$2,000 additional child reduction from the lesser of 6.4% of AGI or 50% of the full tuition rate, if a family with an AGI of \$196,000 has one child attending grade 3 and the other child attending half-day nursery school (N3), they will pay \$12,640 for the child in 3rd grade. However, instead of paying \$10,640 (\$12,640 minus \$2,000) for the child in N3, their tuition obligation for this child will be \$9,939.50 (50% of \$23,879, minus \$2,000).

5. How do I apply for the enhanced benefit or multiple child discount?

- a. You will need to submit an application called, *2020-2021 Laboratory Schools Tuition Benefit Application*, which is available on the [HR Benefits website](#).
- b. For families earning less than \$250,000:
 - i. To verify your household income, you must submit a copy of pages 1 and 2 of your most recent federal income tax return with your application for tuition remission of more than 50 percent. You may redact all information on your tax returns except for your name and the line showing "adjusted gross income." This information must be submitted annually.
 - ii. *Please note: that total household AGI includes your income and the income of your spouse or University-Registered Same-Sex Domestic Partner or Illinois Civil Union Partner. It also includes the income of both custodial parents (i.e., non-married custodial parents).*
 - iii. For the first year your child attends Lab, you must submit a copy of your child's birth certificate with the application.
- c. Families with AGI of \$250,000 or higher and have children returning to Lab for academic year 2020-2021 must submit an application in order to receive the multiple child discount, even if all children have attended Lab in prior years.
- d. Return applications to the University Benefits office at benefits@uchicago.edu or via fax (773.834.0996).

6. What if my household's total AGI changes in the course of the academic school year?

- a. The benefit amount is based on your prior year tax return, so a mid-year change in your total household AGI will not impact your benefit amount until the following academic year. For instance, the benefit for academic year 2020-2021 will be based on the AGI that was reported on your 2019 tax return(s).

7. How will I receive the tuition remission?

- a. The [University of Chicago Office of the Bursar](#) manages Lab's tuition payments. Payment options can be found here: <https://bursar.uchicago.edu/laboratory-school/quarterly-payment-plans/>

8. Does the new remission benefit affect my ability to apply for need-based financial aid from Lab?

- a. No. You may still apply for Lab's separate need-based financial aid program. However, the remission benefit will be taken into account as part of your aid application.



- b. University faculty, other academic appointees, and staff are not required to pay the financial aid application fee. To arrange for a fee waiver, email financialaid@ucls.uchicago.edu before applying for financial aid.

9. How do I apply for need-based financial aid at Lab, and what is the deadline?

- a. Please see the [Lab financial aid website](#) for details about the application process. The deadline to apply for financial aid for the 2020-2021 academic year was April 15, 2020. *Please note: University faculty, other academic appointees, and staff are not required to pay the application fee for this need-based financial aid program. To arrange a fee waiver, email financialaid@ucls.uchicago.edu before applying for financial aid.*

10. I currently receive the Diverse Learners Tuition Portability Benefit. Will this benefit be impacted by the changes to the Lab remission benefit?

- a. If you are eligible for the Diverse Learners Tuition Portability Benefit in 2020-2021 or any subsequent year and send your child to City Elementary or Hyde Park Day School, you will receive a taxable tuition benefit in an amount equal to the tuition remission you would have received if your child(ren) attended the Laboratory Schools (not to exceed the tuition rate at your child's school). Please contact the HR Benefits team at benefits@uchicago.edu with questions.

Please note: The Diverse Learners Tuition Portability Benefit is being offered as a three-year pilot program beginning 2019-2020 and may be reviewed annually to determine if changes should be made or if the benefit should be continued.

11. My child will be attending Summer Lab. Is there tuition remission for Summer Lab courses?

- a. Yes. If your child enrolls in a Summer Lab course for credit, and your family is eligible for Lab Schools tuition remission, your family will receive 50 percent tuition remission for any Summer Lab courses taken for credit.

12. What are the 2020-2021 Lab tuition rates?

- a. The 2020-2021 Lab tuition rates were announced on January 28, 2020 and can be found here: <https://www.ucls.uchicago.edu/admissions/tuition>.
- b. For the 2020-2021 academic year, the rates (before any discounts) are:
 - i. Nursery (half-day): \$23,879
 - ii. Nursery (full-day) through Grade 5: \$33,192
 - iii. Grades 6 through 8: \$35,442
 - iv. Grades 9 through 12: \$36,933

13. Who should I contact with questions about the tuition remission benefit?

- a. Benefit Eligibility: benefits@uchicago.edu
- b. Lab Schools Financial Aid: financialaid@ucls.uchicago.edu
- c. General Tuition Remission Questions: Shared Services at (773) 702-5800

These FAQs are written in everyday language and provide a general summary of changes to the Laboratory Schools Tuition Remission Benefit implemented for the 2020-2021 Academic Year. We have tried to make these as complete and accurate as possible. The Educational Assistance Plan has been updated to reflect the Laboratory Schools Tuition Remission Benefit changes. The University has the authority to interpret the terms of the underlying Educational Assistance Plan and to address questions arising under the plan.



Tuition Obligation Based on Total Household Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)
Effective for the 2020-2021 Academic Year

Families earning less than \$250,000 will pay a percentage of their total household AGI for the first child. For administrative purposes, families will be assigned to \$5,000 AGI brackets and pay 6.4 percent of the mean of the bracket.

Total Household Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)		6.4% of AGI
Minimum AGI	Maximum AGI	
\$0	\$4,999	\$160
\$5,000	\$9,999	\$480
\$10,000	\$14,999	\$800
\$15,000	\$19,999	\$1,120
\$20,000	\$24,999	\$1,440
\$25,000	\$29,999	\$1,760
\$30,000	\$34,999	\$2,080
\$35,000	\$39,999	\$2,400
\$40,000	\$44,999	\$2,720
\$45,000	\$49,999	\$3,040
\$50,000	\$54,999	\$3,360
\$55,000	\$59,999	\$3,680
\$60,000	\$64,999	\$4,000
\$65,000	\$69,999	\$4,320
\$70,000	\$74,999	\$4,640
\$75,000	\$79,999	\$4,960
\$80,000	\$84,999	\$5,280
\$85,000	\$89,999	\$5,600
\$90,000	\$94,999	\$5,920
\$95,000	\$99,999	\$6,240
\$100,000	\$104,999	\$6,560
\$105,000	\$109,999	\$6,880
\$110,000	\$114,999	\$7,200
\$115,000	\$119,999	\$7,520
\$120,000	\$124,999	\$7,840

Total Household Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)		6.4% of AGI
Minimum AGI	Maximum AGI	
\$125,000	\$129,999	\$8,160
\$130,000	\$134,999	\$8,480
\$135,000	\$139,999	\$8,800
\$140,000	\$144,999	\$9,120
\$145,000	\$149,999	\$9,440
\$150,000	\$154,999	\$9,760
\$155,000	\$159,999	\$10,080
\$160,000	\$164,999	\$10,400
\$165,000	\$169,999	\$10,720
\$170,000	\$174,999	\$11,040
\$175,000	\$179,999	\$11,360
\$180,000	\$184,999	\$11,680
\$185,000	\$189,999	\$12,000
\$190,000	\$194,999	\$12,320
\$195,000	\$199,999	\$12,640
\$200,000	\$204,999	\$12,960
\$205,000	\$209,999	\$13,280
\$210,000	\$214,999	\$13,600
\$215,000	\$219,999	\$13,920
\$220,000	\$224,999	\$14,240
\$225,000	\$229,999	\$14,560
\$230,000	\$234,999	\$14,880
\$235,000	\$239,999	\$15,200
\$240,000	\$244,999	\$15,520
\$245,000	\$249,999	\$15,840