Policy for Determination of Payment of SAT Fees and college applications for Learners

Taking the SAT Reasoning examination and/or the ACT examination is a requirement for admission to the California State University system, the University of California system and the majority of private bachelor's degree granting schools. The percentage of learners that take these tests is tracked by the State of California and is made available to the public and college admission officers via IPEDS and CDS.  As “Alameda’s creative and rigorous college prep program”, ACLC has strived to provide our learners with the opportunity to take the exams that are required to enter our public university systems the CSU and UC. Also, college application fees are a hurdle to our mission of giving learners the power to choose college. Therefore, with this in mind, it is important for our school to encourage all learners to take the SAT.

At this time, the cost of taking the SAT is $54.50.  College applications range from $50 to $150 dollars. Fee Waivers are granted to learners who are enrolled in or eligible to enroll in the federal Free &/or Reduced Price Lunch Program.  Due in part to the high cost of living in Alameda, we have a small number of learners who are not eligible for the SAT Fee Waiver program because they exceed the federal poverty guidelines, however, they may not have enough disposable income to pay for the test without sacrificing some other necessity.

ACLC will pay for one SAT Reasoning test and one CSU or UC college application for those who cannot obtain a fee waiver but do not have a family income higher than the adjusted amount. Additionally, if a student who does not qualify for a fee waiver and is experiencing an unexpected financial hardship, the counselor will receive a written confidential request from the parents that states their financial necessity. ACLC will pay for one SAT Reasoning test and one CSU or UC college application for those learners. Final requests will be approved with the Lead Facilitator based on our overall allotted budget.

This policy is intended to create a transparent and confidential method to request support. It is intended to support learners who would not otherwise be able to access college. It is not a policy to bypass parents or a convenient payment process for learners that can otherwise afford to pay for application and SAT fees. ACLC will use the Poverty Guidelines that are adjusted for the cost of living in our area.