

CONFIDENTIALITY

Information related to financial aid is kept in strict confidence, and students receiving assistance are not held to different academic or behavioral standards. The School allocates financial aid systematically, with priority given first to returning students, followed by new students. Please note that in order to be considered for financial aid, the payment of open tuition balances must be current. While families requesting assistance must submit a completed student contract, this contract is not binding until a decision has been reached regarding their financial aid application.

For More Information

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2021-2022 FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

www.waldorfgarden.org

OUR PHILOSOPHY

The Waldorf School of Garden City strives to be an environment where diversity is celebrated. The School actively seeks a student body that represents a wide range of ethnicities, faiths, religions, socio-economic groups, genders, and LGBTQ+ community members.

Our program of financial aid supports this diversity by making the School more accessible to families of varying economic backgrounds. The School demonstrates this commitment by dedicating a sizable share of the annual budget to need-based support. However, the School also recognizes that the primary responsibility for financing a student's independent school education rests with his or her family. As a result, the School is not in a financial position to support lifestyle choices that have a negative impact on a family's ability to pay tuition. We expect all parents to contribute honestly toward tuition, including seeking employment in order to help defray tuition costs.

ASSISTANCE POLICIES

FINANCIAL NEED

All financial aid awards are need based, calculated solely on demonstrated financial need. Admission decisions are made separately from decisions regarding financial aid.

Requests for financial aid are reviewed only after the enrollment contract and appropriate deposit have been received. Should the amount of assistance awarded be insufficient to meet a family's anticipated need, the student contract may be withdrawn and the deposit refunded for up to 30 days after notification regarding the financial aid award.

REVIEW PROCESS

Awards are determined by the Financial Aid Committee (FAC), a small group appointed by the Board of Trustees. In determining awards,

the Committee relies upon the expected family contribution as calculated by SSS (School & Student Services, an outside service providing financial assessment information to our School), the family's submitted tax returns, and any special financial considerations communicated by the family. Final assistance decisions are based on the Committee's assessment of the family's need and the budgeted funds available. Please be aware, there is always a greater demand for assistance than there are available resources.

APPEALS

Appeals of financial aid awards should be made in writing within fifteen days of the initial award letter and addressed to the Waldorf School, Attention: Financial Aid Committee. The appeal letter must include additional information and/or describe special circumstances occurring since the submission of the original application. An interview may be arranged by a member of the Financial Aid Committee to fully understand the family's financial situation, including personal and lifestyle choices.

SINGLE, SEPARATED, OR DIVORCED PARENTS

It is the School's position that both parents retain the obligation to contribute to the education of their child(ren), whether or not there is a legal agreement between them to do so. Therefore, the School considers the financial situation of both parents and requires that each complete and submit a SSS Application, along with the appropriate tax forms and schedules.

ANNUAL APPLICATION REQUIRED

Financial aid must be applied for annually. While the School cannot guarantee the same level of financial support beyond any single year, the goal is to continue offering an award consistent with a family's demonstrated need whenever possible.

APPLYING

The deadline for submitting financial aid applications and supporting documentation is April 1st for returning families. Given the increasing demand for need-based support, it is imperative that returning families meet the April 1st deadline to avoid significant penalties. A 20% penalty will be assessed against any award where either the financial aid application or the supporting documentation is received after April 1st, with an additional 20% for every late month thereafter. **For new families, we encourage you to apply for financial aid, if eligible. Once all the paperwork is submitted, the TAC will decide on an award based on need and funds available.**

To apply visit:

<https://sssbynais.force.com/familyportal/>

Supporting Documentation

The following supporting documentation must be submitted to SSS (via fax, scan or mail--please do not send documents directly to the school) for your application to be considered complete:

- For current families, we request 2020 tax forms and for newly applying families, 2019 and 2020 tax forms.
- W-2's from each job held by household members
- Most recent pay stub from each job held by household members
- All corporate, partnership, and trust forms if a household member owns 20% or more interest in a corporation, partnership or trust
- 1099/1099G if applicable
- Other documents may be required depending on individual circumstances (e.g. credit card statements)