



# The Waldorf School of Garden City

## FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM 2024-2025

### 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, races, faiths, religions, socio-economic groups, genders, and LGBTQIA+ community members.

As part of our commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive community, the School provides need-based financial assistance to students in Mixed-Age Kindergarten through twelfth grade. The School also recognizes that the primary responsibility for financing a student's independent school education rests with their family and expects families to use all resources at their disposal, including employment potential, to contribute towards tuition.

### ASSISTANCE POLICIES

#### **FINANCIAL NEED**

All financial aid awards are need based, calculated solely on demonstrated financial need. Financial aid must be applied for annually. The range of need-based awards is generally between 5% - 50% of tuition for Grades 4-12, and 5% - 25% for the Mixed-Age Kindergarten-Grade 3. There are additional factors that will be taken into consideration i.e., siblings attending the School, however the maximum award will never exceed 50%. ***Families applying to the Nursery programs are not eligible for Financial Aid; except for those who have children in older grades.*** 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 February 15<sup>th</sup> for returning families.** Given the increasing demand for need-based support, it is imperative that returning families meet the February 15<sup>th</sup> 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 February 15<sup>th</sup>, with an additional 20% for every late month thereafter.**

For new families, if you are interested in applying for financial aid, we recommend you submit your application along with your admissions application to receive a timely response. Once all the paperwork is submitted, the FAC will decide on an award based on need and funds available.

**Note: Admission decisions are made separately from decisions regarding financial aid.**

**To apply log-in to your Blackbaud Parent Portal/Financial Aid Management**

**For more information on how to apply:**

[Blackbaud Financial Aid Management Application Information](#)

### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The following supporting documentation must be submitted to Blackbaud Financial Aid (upload directly onto your Blackbaud account- please do not send documents directly to the school) for your application to be considered complete:

- **2022** tax forms for current, and newly applying, families.
- W-2's from each job held by parents/guardians.
- Most recent pay stub from each job held by parents/guardians.
- 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).
- If a family member is recently unemployed, provide a copy of the unemployment check.
- If indicating uncooperative spouse, the following document must be completed and included with your application: [Second Parent/Guardian Information Form](#).

## 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 Blackbaud Financial Aid, 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 aid 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 aid than there are available resources.

For returning families, a signed re-enrollment contract and deposit is needed before the FAC will review your financial aid application.

Upon receiving your financial aid award letter, you have **seven** days to either accept, appeal, or decline the award.

## APPEALS

**Within seven days of the initial award**, appeals should be sent in writing and addressed to The Waldorf School, Attention: Financial Aid Committee or [littreann@waldorfgarden.org](mailto:littreann@waldorfgarden.org). The appeal letter should include additional information with supporting itemized documentation that describes special circumstances occurring since the submission of the original application. The Committee will respond to your appeal within **seven** days of receipt of your letter and you subsequently have **seven** days to either accept or deny the final financial aid award.

## SINGLE, SEPARATED, OR DIVORCED PARENTS

We expect that separated or divorced parents will contribute to the cost of their child's education, regardless of whether there is a legal obligation for them to do so. In the cases of divorce or separation, WSGC requires information from both natural parents and stepparents, including the appropriate tax forms and schedules. If one parent has been uninvolved in the parenting and educational decision-making process for the child, for at least one year, the custodial parent must complete the [Second Parent/Guardian Information Form](#).

## CONFIDENTIALITY

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

For more information contact:

Nicole Littrean, School Administrator [littreann@waldorfgarden.org](mailto:littreann@waldorfgarden.org) or 516-742-3434 ext. 104