



WASHINGTON  
**WALDORF**  
SCHOOL

**Financial Aid Program**

**2019 - 2020**

**Financial Aid Office**

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**Washington Waldorf School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, familial status or responsibilities, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, political affiliation, or any other group protected by federal, state, or local law in its educational, administrative, employment or admissions policies, practices or programs.**

**PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES**

The Washington Waldorf School's financial aid program has two goals: to provide qualified students with a Waldorf education who might not otherwise be able to afford one, and to develop a student body that is reflective of the School's values and mission regardless of financial status. Financial aid decisions in no way impact student admissions decisions.

Approximately 20% of the WWS annual operating budget is devoted to financial aid. This is one of the highest percentages among private schools in the area and is indicative of the School's commitment to providing affordable Waldorf education. Financial limitations should not deter a qualified student from applying to the Washington Waldorf School, and parents are encouraged to apply for financial aid. At the same time, the Financial Aid Office is mindful of its obligation to assign funds responsibly, prudently, and consistently.

## **POLICIES**

***Selection*** – The number of applicants accepted for admission who also qualify for financial aid is greater than the number we can afford to support. Although financial need is the first requirement for aid, we also make choices that balance the financial needs of the family with the needs and goals of the School.

***Renewals*** – All financial aid awards and grants are made for one year. Renewals of, or adjustments to aid in subsequent years are subject to (1) parents' filing the required annual financial statements, (2) the School's financial aid budget, (3) the number of financial aid applicants, and (4) students and parents continuing to meet the expectations of the School.

***Computation*** – The Washington Waldorf School subscribes to the principles and services of School and Student Service for Financial Aid (SSS), which provide us, at the request of parents, with a financial analysis based on the confidential statements in the Parent's Financial Statement (PFS). These SSS reports provide a framework and starting point for the decisions made by the Financial Aid Committee.

A financial aid applicant is considered only after the student is admitted to the school. SSS processes applications from December to July for the following school year. The Washington Waldorf School requires the SSS form to be completed online, and copies of the form only (and not the supporting documents) must be submitted to the school by February 1st.

***Priorities*** - Consideration for budgeted financial aid and grants funds are given in the following order:

1. Applications from current recipients who have completed renewal requirements by stated deadlines.
2. New applications from currently enrolled students who have completed requirements by the stated deadline.
3. New applications from candidates who have been accepted for admission and have completed requirements by the stated deadline.
4. Renewal and new applications completed after specified deadlines, if funds remain available.

**We do not reserve funds for families whose required SSS or tax forms are received late.**

***Family Contribution*** – We do not have the funds to meet every family's total demonstrated need. To support the broader community, we typically limit aid to 50% of total tuition. We do have limited grants that provide a small number of families with more than 50% tuition

assistance (Susan Anderson Nash Grant for high school students, emergency aid grants). However, it is critical that all financial aid applicants contribute as much of their own funds as possible in furtherance of the School's efforts to extend its financial resources to multiple families. To that end, we encourage and utilize parents' offers of payment beyond the amount calculated by SSS and the Financial Aid Office.

**External Resources** – Any financial support, educational or otherwise, that is available in addition to the parents' own income and assets must be reported on the PFS for consideration by the School. These include resources from grandparents or other relatives, trusts, church funds, other scholarships or grants, etc.

**Divided Families** – The resources of both biological/adoptive parents or legal guardians are considered when making financial aid decisions. If the parents have remarried, we also consider the resources of the stepparent, bearing in mind the obligations of the stepparent to their own natural children. The custodial parent, non-custodial parent, and any stepparent should submit a standard PFS. If any special circumstances exist they must be supported with the appropriate legal documentation.

**Confidentiality** – The Washington Waldorf Schools holds all financial information in strict confidence. Financial aid records are maintained in accordance with the law, including IRS and other regulations. Old records are similarly destroyed as required by law.

## **IMPORTANT DATES AND PROCEDURES**

### ***Families with returning students:***

#### **February 1st:**

**Financial Aid applications are due to WWS via SSS. This includes supporting documents which must be uploaded directly to SSS. A complete application includes:**

- A Parent Financial Statement (PFS) which must be completed on-line at [www.sssbynais.org](http://www.sssbynais.org) WWS code: 8044. SSS accepts payment by credit card only.
- A copy of 2017 federal tax returns for all parents, or 2018 if complete.
- Most recent pay stubs, or an alternative statement of current earnings i.e.: 2018 W2s, for all custodial and non-custodial families.
- Other supporting documents as needed (i.e., 1099 form, Business/Farm statements, etc.)

#### **February 12th:**

- Provided there are no delays from SSS, notification of Financial Aid award will be e-mailed to parents via tuition agreements.

#### **February 28th:**

- Families must accept or decline financial aid awards by returning the Annual Tuition Agreement with the registration fee either by mail or electronically through Big Sis. Please mark all mail correspondence **Attn: Tuition Agreement**. All aid awards that are not accepted may be reallocated. Any questions please contact financial aid coordinator.

#### **May 9th:**

- Copy of 2018 federal tax filings and W2s are due to SSS if not already submitted. **The tax return should match the PFS or allocated aid will be adjusted.**

- If not already enrolled, then enroll into the school's online payment platform called FACTS to manage the payment schedule during the school year. The school will issue an invitation to either renew or enroll into FACTS which will increase flexibility to the payment schedule.

### ***New Families:***

#### **February 6th:**

**Financial Aid applications are due to WWS via SSS. This includes supporting documents which must be uploaded directly to SSS. A complete application includes:**

- The Parent Financial Statement (PFS) which must be completed on-line at [www.sssbynais.org](http://www.sssbynais.org). WWS code: 8044. SSS accepts payment by credit card only.
- Most recent pay stubs, or an alternative statement of current earnings i.e.: 2017 W2s, for all custodial and non-custodial families.
- A copy of 2017 federal tax returns for all parents, or 2018 if complete.
- Other supporting documents as needed (i.e., 1099 form, Business/Farm statements, etc.)

#### **March 2nd:**

- Provided there are no delays from SSS, Annual Tuition Agreements/notification of Financial Aid award and letter of student acceptance will be mailed to parents.

#### **March 16th:**

Families must accept or decline financial aid awards by returning the Annual Tuition Agreement with the registration fee either by mail or electronically through Big Sis. Please mark all mail correspondence to **Attn: Tuition Agreement**. All aid awards that are not accepted may be reallocated. Any questions please contact financial aid coordinator.

#### **May 9th:**

- Copy of 2017 federal tax filings and W2s are due to SSS if not already submitted. **The tax return should match the PFS or allocated aid will be adjusted.**
- Enroll into the school's online payment platform called FACTS to manage the payment schedule during the school year. The school will issue an invitation to enroll into FACTS.

### ***Late Applications and Emergency Funds:***

Funds sometimes remain or become available after the initial financial awards have been offered. Families whose admissions applications have been initiated after the financial aid application deadline, or families who require emergency assistance due to loss of employment or other life events, are encouraged to apply for financial aid. Resources cannot be guaranteed, and amounts awarded at this time will likely be reduced.