

Financial Aid FAQ's

1. What is financial aid?

At Seattle Waldorf School, the financial aid program provides need-based tuition assistance to students who qualify through the financial aid application process.

Financial need is defined as the difference between a family's resources to contribute toward the cost of education and the cost of tuition. All financial aid awards are made in the form of grants, which are not repaid to the school.

2. What grades must my child be in to apply for aid?

Financial aid is available to qualified students in 1st to 12th grade.

3. What are the school's priorities in terms of who receives aid?

Financial aid is awarded in the following priority.

1. Families currently enrolled at SWS
2. New students who have been admitted to the school

SWS strives to allocate funds across grades and at levels that meet enrollment goals and support socio-economic diversity throughout the school.

4. How is our family's financial need determined?

SWS uses The School and Student Services (SSS) by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) which processes the information you provide on the Parent Financial Statement (PFS) according to a standard methodology to compute a family's ability to pay for educational expenses. You can find more information on SSS's website on the methodology used.

5. Who will see the information provided by SSS to the school?

The information provided to SSS will be held in strict confidence. Information will be reviewed only by persons directly involved in financial aid decision-making and administration.

6. Can you consider an application if we have not provided all the information requested?

No. To remain equitable to all families we are only able to consider complete applications for financial aid.

7. Do I have to reapply each year for financial aid?

Yes. Family circumstances can change from year to year therefore we need current and accurate information. All families must reapply for aid each year.

8. Will financial aid cover all my tuition?

No. Every family is expected to pay some tuition. Independent school attendance is a choice that is partnership with the school, therefore every family is expected to financially participate in their child's education.

9. Will applying for aid have an impact on my admission decision?

No. Admission decisions are made first. The financial aid committee only reviews applications after a student has been admitted.

10. Are students who receive aid treated differently than other students?

No. The expectations of students regarding academic performance, behavior and all other aspects of school life are the same. Furthermore, faculty and staff are not informed of a family's financial aid status or award.

11. What if I am separated or divorced or never married?

SWS believes the primary responsibility to fund a child's education rests with both parents. Financial aid is not based on the willingness to pay, but on the ability to pay. It is the responsibility of all parents/guardians, step-parents, significant others and partners to complete all steps in the application process.