

Watershed School Financial Assistance Guidelines and Instructions Academic Year 2012-13

Financial Assistance

At Watershed School we seek to find the best fit between the school and student, and strive to make the school accessible to as many families as possible. We are committed to maintaining an economically diverse school community and are proud that approximately 40% of our families receive financial assistance scholarships every year.

Tuition Information

Tuition for 2012-2013 is \$18700

High school fees are \$1890 and middle school fees are \$1260

Following is the process for applying for financial assistance:

STEP 1: FACTS Application

The first step in applying for financial assistance is to submit an online application to FACTS www.factstuitionaid.com

The FACTS process looks at the big picture of your finances to help assess an amount that your family is able to pay for tuition. If you have any questions or concerns about the application process, you may speak with a FACTS Customer Care Representative at 1-866-315-9262, or contact them at www.factstuitionaid.com

STEP 2: Financial Essay for Watershed School

All families applying for financial aid are asked to submit an essay outlining their need for financial aid and the circumstances of their financial situation. This essay can be 1-2 pages in length and is submitted directly to the Director of Admissions at Watershed School.

STEP 3: Financial Assistance Committee Review

Each application and essay will be reviewed by the Financial Assistance Committee, which grants financial aid on the basis of demonstrated financial need and the availability of funds. The Committee must balance the family's ability to pay tuition against standards that ensure equitable distribution of awards. Award decisions are based on the FACTS assessment and factors such as income, assets, extenuating circumstances and a demonstrated commitment to a Watershed School education.

Financial Assistance

- Priority is given to returning students and to those who complete the process on time.
- Awards are granted only to families for whom all school accounts are current. If a family's accounts lapse after an award is made, then that award may be revoked or reconsidered.
- Financial Assistance awards are for tuition only, not for fees. If annual school fees pose a hardship for your family, please contact Kathleen McGarry, Director of Admissions.
- Prospective parents may apply at any time. The financial assistance application will be processed once the student is accepted to Watershed School.
- Financial Assistance applications can only be considered after *all* paperwork has been received by Financial Aid Committee

Financial assistance is awarded with the expectation that a student will meet and exceed all expectations of scholastic work and community participation. Funds are limited, so we suggest you enter the admissions process and submit your financial assistance application as early as possible if you anticipate needing financial assistance to attend.

Financial assistance will be considered in two (2) rounds. In the first round approximately 75% of the available financial assistance funds are awarded for the upcoming school year. In round 2 we will award remaining available funds. Please see the table below with dates and deadlines.

The Financial Aid Committee is made up of the Director of Admissions and other members named by the Head of School who will hold the information provided in the strictest confidence. The committee will consider need based funds, merit grant awards and educational loans as options for each family.

Merit Grant Awards

In addition to need based financial assistance, there are merit grants available. Merit grants are awarded to new students based on the expectation of being an exemplary student (academic and citizenship) who brings an extraordinary quality to the Watershed School community. Merit grants are awarded to students who have a realistic expectation of paying tuition without the grant in future years, but with financial assistance.

Educational Loans

Watershed School partners with Sallie Mae – the nation’s leading provider of private student loans – to offer loans to families who are pursuing financial aid options. To learn more about Sallie Mae educational loans, please visit www.salliemae.com/k12loan. The Watershed School code is 607491.

IMPORTANT DATES:

ROUND 1

February 21, 2012 Deadline for Round 1 applicants

March 9, 2012 Round 1 award letters mailed with enrollment contracts

March 30, 2012 Signed enrollment contract, deposit, and tuition forms due

ROUND 2

March 23, 2012 Deadline for Round 2 applicants

April 13, 2012 Round 2 award letters sent with enrollment contracts

April 27, 2012 Signed enrollment contract, deposit, and tuition forms due

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR FINANCIAL AID

- 1) Fill out the FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment online at www.factstuitionaid.com. You will be asked for the following:
 - a. Watershed School's zip code: 80304
 - b. Copies of your most recent tax forms, including all supporting tax schedules (these can be mailed or faxed).
 - c. Copies of your 2011 W-2 form for both you and your spouse/partner (these can be mailed or faxed).
 - d. Copies of supporting documentation for Social Security Income, Welfare, Child Support, Food Stamps, Workers' Compensation, and TANF. These can be mailed or faxed to:
FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment
P.O. Box 82524
Lincoln, NE 68501-2524 Fax Number: 866-315-9264

If you have any questions or concerns about the application process, you may speak FACTS Customer Care Representative at 1-866-315-9262.

Please retain a copy of the application for your records.

- 2) Non-custodial parents must also complete the FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment form by the due date of the round for which the family is applying. Both parents retain the obligation to contribute what they can afford to the education of their children regardless of any divorce or agreements stating otherwise. Financial need is determined by a family's ability to meet educational expenses.
- 3) If either parent has remarried, the financial information of the stepparent must be included on the Facts Grant and Aid Assessment form.
- 4) If one parent is not involved in the child's life, a statement to this effect from a third party that is aware of the situation in a professional capacity (a lawyer, therapist, member of the clergy, etc.) may be substituted for the financial documents from that parent.
- 5) Submit a personal letter outlining your situation and any extenuating circumstances you would like considered with your application. Such a letter can be mailed or delivered to Watershed School, Attention: Kathleen McGarry, Director of Admissions and must be received by the deadline for each round of financial aid applications. We strongly recommend that families apply by February 21, 2012 as most available funds are awarded in Round 1. This deadline (and all subsequent deadlines) applies to all components of the application: the FACTS application, tax returns, and financial essays.

FACTS TUITION MANAGEMENT

2012 - 2013 Payment Plan

Watershed School provides four options for paying tuition. We partner with FACTS to manage your payment plan. To enroll for the payment plan, go to:

<https://online.factsmgt.com/Tmg/public/AgreementSignup.aspx?t=3DRCP>