

## **Financial Aid Policy - 2016-2017**

The Winston School of Short Hills is committed to enrolling students from diverse economic backgrounds. As a part of this commitment, the School offers financial aid to families who would otherwise be unable to consider a Winston education for their children. The Winston financial aid program is need-based; aid is granted on the basis of a family's documented ability to pay tuition and fees. While the School believes that the primary responsibility for financing a student's independent school education rests with the family, the School seeks to make a Winston education accessible to as many families of varying economic backgrounds as possible.

All students accepted to the School are eligible to receive tuition assistance if need is demonstrated; however, admissions decisions and financial aid decisions are made separately. Financial aid awards are based on demonstrated financial need as measured by the SSS assessment process. Financial need is defined as the difference between Winston's tuition and fees and the family's ability to pay. Because of the limited funds available for financial aid, an acceptance by the Admissions Office does not guarantee a financial aid award even if need is demonstrated. Financial aid is made in the form of direct awards to individual families. These awards are dollar amounts that are applied directly towards a student's tuition and fees and do not require repayment.

The Winston School of Short Hills is a member of the **School and Student Service for Financial Aid** (SSS) that is part of NAIS (The National Association of Independent Schools), and assists independent schools in determining financial need. Winston funds all financial aid awards, not SSS. All families who wish to obtain financial aid must apply each year through the SSS on-line application. Because requests for financial aid often exceed the available funds, families are encouraged to apply early enough to meet the school's deadlines, thereby ensuring due consideration. The application for financial aid will not be reviewed for any family whose tuition balance is in arrears.

All financial aid information and awards to families are kept strictly confidential. The School expects each recipient of financial aid to do the same. Requests for financial aid are reviewed only by the school's Financial Aid Committee that consists of the Head of School, the Chief Financial Officer and the Treasurer of the Board. Families are not required to submit a contract to the school, finalizing their commitment of enrollment, until they have been notified in writing of their tuition grant.



Financial Aid application forms must be received by the SSS service no later than February 15 of the year prior to formal enrollment. Normally, the School will receive the financial aid report from SSS within one week of an electronic submission of the application form and required supporting documents. Parents must file a new application each year. Applications can be assessed on-line through SSS (at [SSS.NAIS.ORG](http://SSS.NAIS.ORG)) and should be submitted electronically. The SSS “school code” for The Winston School, Short Hills is **8271**.

If parents are separated, divorced or have never married, each parent must file separately with SSS. The school does not offer merit awards, educational loans, or service in exchange for tuition payment.

Because family situations are varied and unique, it is important that families explain to the School any unusual circumstances, if deemed relevant to the financial aid assessment process, in a letter to be sent to the Head of School apart from the formal application to the SSS service. As outlined by the SSS service, the School will require additional financial documents and explanations including a family’s most current 1040 Tax Form as part of the application process.

All inquiries on the financial aid program should be directed to the Head of School.

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