



Financial Aid Policy: The Winston School of Short Hills

2019-2020

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 ability to pay tuition and fees. While the School believes that the primary responsibility for financing a student's independent school education rests with his/her family, the School works 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 a tuition grant if need is demonstrated; however, admissions decisions and financial aid decisions are made separately. Grants are based on demonstrated financial need. Financial need is defined as the difference between Winston's tuition and fees and the family's ability to pay. Because of the School's limited funds, an acceptance by the Admissions Office does not guarantee a grant even if need is demonstrated. Financial aid is made in the form of direct grants to individual families. These grants are dollar amounts that go directly toward 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 tuition grants, not SSS. All families who wish to obtain grants must apply each year they anticipate need. Because requests for tuition grants 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 grants awarded 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. 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. A student's eligibility for continued financial aid each year is subject to immediate review if that student fails to maintain appropriate academic and behavioral standings at the School.

Financial Aid forms for returning students must be received by the SSS service no later than February 15 of the year prior to formal enrollment. Parents must file a new application each year. Applications can be assessed on-line through SSS and can be

submitted electronically. New student families applying for financial aid must submit the SSS financial aid application as soon as possible after formal acceptance to the school.

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 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.

To access the online financial aid application through SSS, parents should go to the web address, **SSS.NAIS.org**, and then enter the Winston School code of **8271**.

All further inquiries on the financial aid program should be directed to the Head of School or the Business Manager.