



INTERNATIONAL MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Financial Assistance Program

A language immersion Montessori education is an investment not only in your child but in the future, and the returns are priceless.

Approach

International Montessori School subscribes to the belief of the National Association of Independent Schools that the primary responsibility for funding the cost of education resides with the family. Our financial assistance program can help close the gap between the cost of attending IMS and the family's ability to pay, as determined by the needs methodology used by School and Student Services for Financial Aid (SSS). A financial commitment is expected from each family and those interested in applying for financial assistance are requested to follow the timeline and guidelines for online application. Financial assistance applies to tuition only. It does not apply to any other school fees incurred throughout the school year. All recipients of financial assistance are subject to the current Financial Policies of IMS which are provided with the award information.

In the administration of its financial assistance program, IMS does not discriminate on the basis of race, nationality, or ethnic origin.

Confidentiality

The school respects the confidentiality of the financial information it receives from parents and protects the identity of all families receiving need-based assistance. This information will be reviewed only by the people directly involved in the financial assistance decision making process or in its administration. The school keeps financial assistance records for 1 year after the student leaves the school, after which they are shredded.

Applying through School and Student Services

School and Student Services (SSS), a service of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) processes financial assistance applications at IMS. Based on the financial information that you provide, SSS prepares a report for the school that estimates an amount your family can contribute to educational expenses. The Financial Assistance Committee uses the SSS report in conjunction with IMS Financial Policies to determine award decisions while balancing the limited annual budget with yearly assistance requests.

The following items must be submitted by February 10, 2017, per provided instructions, before an award can be considered:

- The Parents' Financial Statement ("PFS") from School and Student Services ("SSS"),
- A copy of the most recent 1040 Federal income tax return, signed, with all schedules,
- A copy of all W-2 and/or 1099 forms,
- The Business/Farm Statement and corporate tax return, if the applicant owns all or part of a business or working farm.

The school assumes that both parents (if applicable) have a financial obligation for the education of their child. For divorced or separated parents, each parent or household's financial obligation is determined either by the legal agreements specifying each parent's responsibility for the child's educational costs or by a statement signed by both parents explaining each parent's responsibility for educational costs. Each parent would apply for financial assistance separately and confidentially. IMS does not share information about each parent's award with the other parent. The School considers the entire household income from all sources, including taxable and non-taxable income. In fairness to all those applying for financial assistance, applicants are strongly encouraged to fully disclose all support available to meet the financial responsibilities of attend IMS. This refers to financial contributions made by any adult who contributes to the household expenses and/or the child's education, including but not limited to both parents in one household, couples living together but not married, step parents and/or relatives.

The school reserves the right to request additional information. Families should make the Financial Assistance Committee aware in writing of any circumstances not specifically represented on the PFS.

Renewals

Families who receive financial assistance can expect the assistance to continue throughout the student's enrollment corresponding to demonstrating need; however, families must reapply for financial assistance each year. If a family's ability to contribute to the child's education increases, the level of assistance will decrease accordingly.

For more questions concerning a particular family situation, please feel free to contact Angela Bailey, Head of School, at abailey@imsnc.org directly.