

Financial Assistance Program

Our Approach

Consistent with our mission, International Montessori School strives to enhance the diversity of our school community, including socio-economic diversity. As our school grows, we continue to evaluate how we can expand the support we can provide families who are committed to the same mission and values as IMS. Our financial aid approach is a part of that support. We are a small school without an endowment to fund our financial aid budget; however, each year the Board of Directors approves a percentage of revenue to be allocated to financial aid. Any family who would like to be considered for financial aid is encouraged to apply. In addition, all admissions decisions are made independent of financial aid grant decisions although we share both decisions at the same time so families have all the information they need to make a decision.

What to Expect

Our financial assistance program is structured to help close the gap between the cost of attending IMS and a family's ability to pay, as determined by the needs methodology in the TADS Financial Aid Assessment. We continue to work towards increasing the amount of need we can meet each year as we often cannot provide 100% of the demonstrated need. Although financial assistance applies only to tuition, families should include all of the costs of attendance when submitting the financial aid application, including the non-refundable one-time enrollment fee and any extended day fees (before or after school).

In the administration of our financial assistance program, IMS does not discriminate on the basis of race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, or ethnic origin. All recipients of financial assistance are subject to the current Financial Policies of IMS which are provided through the enrollment process.

IMS assumes that both parents (if applicable) have a financial obligation for the education of their child. We also consider 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 attending 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. 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. When both parents are supporting a child, each parent would apply for financial assistance separately and confidentially. When both parents have financial responsibility and the division of the responsibility is specified in the legal agreements, IMS does not share information about each parent's award with the other parent.



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How Funds Are Prioritized

In distributing the financial aid budget, the Board of Directors and the Financial Aid Committee set certain priorities that inform the award process. Strong consideration is given to returning families, and more global factors such as program needs in a given year (language or level) can influence the award decision.

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 changes or the financial circumstances of the school change, the level of assistance will adjust accordingly.

Applying through TADS

TADS Financial Aid Assessment Service processes financial assistance applications on behalf of IMS. Based on the financial information provided by the family, TADS prepares a report for the school that estimates an amount the family can realistically contribute to their child's educational expenses. The Financial Assistance Committee uses the report in conjunction with IMS Financial Assistance Policies to determine award decisions while balancing the limited annual budget with yearly assistance requests. Please reference the TADS Financial Aid Family Guide for additional information about the financial aid application process and what information to gather in preparation for submitting your application.

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.

Additional Questions

If you have questions concerning a particular family situation, please feel free contact the office at 919-401-4343 to schedule a call with Angela Bailey, Head of School, to discuss.