



FINANCIAL AID POLICY

The Winston School admits students of any race, color, sex, religion, national or ethnic origin to all the rights and privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, financial aid program, athletics or other school-administered programs.

Philosophy

The Winston School is an independent, nonsectarian, co-educational, nonprofit institution whose purpose is to provide an excellent education for *bright students who learn differently*®. Winston recognizes the value of a school community that promotes socioeconomic diversity. Its financial aid program is designed to facilitate the attainment of that goal.

Policy

Winston offers financial aid subject to the limits of available funds. Awards are based on need and F.A.S.T. (Financial Aid for School Tuition), and are dependent on availability of funds. Awards are given to as many deserving, qualified candidates as possible. It is important to note that all awards are determined by the extent of demonstrated financial need and the student's academic need for Winston's special services. There is no obligation to repay an award.

Financial aid at The Winston School is awarded on an annual basis. Each year the school requires parents of students with financial assistance to fill out a new application for the next school year. Renewals of present financial aid grants are given preference over new applicants and requests from current families are given preference over new families.

School policy is that no award will be granted for more than 50% of tuition.

It is important that the family assumes primary responsibility for financing a student's education. Families must consider all their personal resources before applying to the School for funds. Both parents are expected to contribute to tuition. If a parent of school-age children chooses not to work the Winston School imputes an annual income of \$15,000 for a non-working parent.

The request for financial aid for new students is a separate process from the admission process and does not affect one's application for admission to the School. Financial aid grants are awarded annually and are need-based, with preference given to returning students. Parents/guardians are required to fill out a confidential financial statement each year.

In a case of divorced or separated parents/guardians, the School considers the assets of both natural parents/guardians if living, before making any award. Therefore, both sets of parents/guardians must submit all financial aid forms. The School cannot be bound by the assertion that one parent/guardian has disclaimed responsibility for educational expenses. If either the custodial or the non-custodial parent/guardian has remarried, we consider also the assets of the stepparent, always bearing in mind the obligation of that stepparent to his or her own natural children.

Computation of awards

When candidates apply to Winston for financial aid, the Financial Aid Office assembles pertinent information for consideration by the Winston Financial Aid Committee. The committee looks at the demonstrated academic commitment of the student, the overall citizenship of the student, as well as the family's financial history at the school (A completed application through F.A.S.T. is essential.) The committee defines a student's financial need as the difference between Winston's tuition and fees and an ESTIMATE of what the student's family can reasonably contribute for education.

To determine the most equitable estimate of family contribution, Winston uses the online services of F.A.S.T. The F.A.S.T. service considers a family's net income before taxes and, to some extent, their net worth. These

figures are balanced against taxes, educational expenses of other children, unusual debts, medical expenses, etc. From this information, a report of the family's financial need and suggested contribution is sent The Winston School. This report is used by Winston as a guide to determine the amount of the award.

Procedure

Each family that indicates a need for financial assistance will be provided this website information to apply online at F.A.S.T. (Financial Aid for School Tuition). The deadline to complete the process each year is March 15th, for financial aid for the following school year.

It is important that parents complete the application process by March 15th to ensure the fullest consideration of their financial aid request. A late request may not be included in the initial allotment of aid. Once the initial allotment of aid is complete, a family's chances of receiving sufficient aid are significantly reduced. Financial Aid is funded only when the past year's tuition charges are current.

Confidentiality

All application forms, tax information, and other related papers are held with the **F.A.S.T.** and are not held on The Winston School campus. The Winston School feels strongly that the success of its financial aid program depends on the confidentiality of the financial aid files.

Tuition Payment options

All Winston School families will receive an initial statement mailed in April or May from the school's selected tuition selected collection partner for the total tuition amount due; from this statement you can make tuition payment in full online or by check, or go online to set up a budgeted tuition payment plan. This is not a loan program, so no debt is incurred and no credit check is conducted.

Payment Plan Options-The School has several payment plan options available to choose from. However, a finance charge will be applied to all payment plans where the tuition is not paid in full at the beginning of the school year.