

WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

FINANCIAL AID | 2027–2028

Financial Aid at WIS

Policies and Procedures

WHY DOES WIS OFFER FINANCIAL AID?

WIS is strongly committed to maintaining economic diversity within its community. Financial aid is used to support families who could not otherwise afford to enroll their children at WIS and is awarded in accordance with the strategic enrollment goals of the School. The Board of Trustees sets the financial aid budget.

HOW DO WE APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?

All financial aid applications are processed through Clarity. Detailed information on how to apply and the required deadlines can be found on the back page of this brochure and on the WIS website. We highly recommend that families adhere to all the application deadlines.

CAN STUDENTS AT ANY GRADE LEVEL APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?

Yes! Applicants to all grades may submit materials to be considered for Financial Aid.

CAN A CURRENTLY ENROLLED NON-FINANCIAL AID STUDENT APPLY FOR AID LATER ON?

Currently enrolled non-financial aid families are only eligible to apply for financial aid if/when one of the following criteria is met: 1) a non-financial aid family enrolls a new sibling at WIS or another tuition charging institution 2) a non-financial aid family experiences a significant and unexpected change in financial circumstances

WILL A FINANCIAL AID RECIPIENT RECEIVE AID EVERY YEAR?

Families must reapply for financial aid every year. However, once a student has received financial aid, the School is committed to continuing to provide financial aid as long as the family demonstrates financial need and has adhered to all of the financial aid application deadlines. Awards are reviewed annually and adjusted based on updated financial information submitted by the parents.

WHAT IS THE FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITY?

WIS is committed to helping families who cannot afford the cost of attending an independent school. However, families requesting aid are expected to demonstrate that paying tuition is a priority and that they are prepared to make lifestyle sacrifices with discretionary income.

HOW MANY STUDENTS AT WIS RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID?

For the 2026–27 academic year, 148 students (16% of our total enrollment) are receiving financial aid.

HOW MUCH IS AWARDED?

The 2026–27 financial aid budget is approximately $5,555,768. Financial Aid grants do not cover the entire annual cost of enrollment; all families pay some portion of tuition and fees, and are expected to make funding their children's education a priority. The average financial aid award is $39,369. However, because awards are need-based, we have qualifying families who pay $1,000–$40,000 toward tuition.

HOW DOES WIS DETERMINE FINANCIAL AID AWARDS?

WIS uses the analysis provided by Clarity as the basis for what a family might reasonably be expected to pay toward tuition and fees. The Clarity analysis is used as a guideline, but the WIS Financial Aid Committee makes the final decision regarding eligibility and award amounts.

HOW DOES WIS PRIORITIZE WHO RECEIVES FINANCIAL AID?

Financial aid shall be awarded in accordance with the strategic enrollment goals of the School, taking into consideration the needs of the following:

- Re-enrolling students who were previous financial aid recipients, who continue to qualify for financial aid
- Re-enrolling students who previously paid full tuition, but now meet the criteria to apply for financial aid
- Newly admitted students who qualify for financial aid

IS FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE FOR EXPENSES BEYOND TUITION?

In addition to tuition assistance, the student's financial aid grant percentage will be applied to the costs associated with the after school program, class/grade affiliated trips, one pre-approved summer community service trip or language trip, a college SAT prep class, and a required computer. The financial aid grant percentage can also be applied to costs associated with the learning lab, tutoring, and a psychological evaluation and/or therapy (pre-approval required by the Director of Admissions and Financial Aid).

WHAT IF THE FAMILY'S FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE?

WIS reserves the right to modify the amount of a financial aid award if there is a significant change in a family's financial circumstances. It is the family's responsibility to notify the School of any such change.

Additional Questions?

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HOW DOES WIS HANDLE A FINANCIAL AID REQUEST WHEN THE CHILD'S PARENTS ARE UNMARRIED, DIVORCED, SEPARATED, OR REMARRIED?

Unmarried, separated, divorced, and remarried parents may have legal arrangements regarding the financial responsibility for educational expenses. WIS is not bound by the terms of these legal arrangements.

In the case of unmarried, separated, and divorced parents, WIS will take into consideration the assets of the custodial and non-custodial parents and require both parents to complete the financial aid application process. Exceptions can be made if the non-custodial parent has no contact with the child. If a parent has remarried, the assets of the step-parent are considered as a resource toward household expenses and should be included in your Clarity application.

HOW DOES WIS HANDLE THE LOSS/ REDUCTION OF INCOME WHEN A PARENT IS SELF-EMPLOYED, HAS STARTED A BUSINESS, OR CHOOSES TO BE A STUDENT?

WIS understands that parental choices regarding employment and education may lead to a temporary loss or reduction in income. However, after a reasonable grace period (typically one to two years), WIS will no longer take decreased income from self-employment or start-up costs into account. At the conclusion of the grace period, parents will be expected to generate income at a level commensurate with their education, experience, and expertise, and, if necessary, WIS will impute an appropriate salary into the financial aid calculation.

WHAT IF ONE PARENT CHOOSES TO BE VOLUNTARILY UNEMPLOYED/UNDER-EMPLOYED?

Parents who are requesting aid are expected to demonstrate that paying for their child's education is a priority. Some families may choose to have one "stay-at-home" parent or for a parent to be intentionally under-employed. However, if both parents are eligible to work in the United States, and are not fully employed, WIS considers this to be a family lifestyle choice and during the financial aid evaluation process will impute income for the non-working or under-employed parent that is commensurate with their education, experience, and expertise. Please note that certain non-working or under-employed parents who are caring for a baby/toddler at home, a disabled child, or an elderly relative may request an exception to this policy.

IS ADMISSIONS NEED-BLIND?

When determining if an applicant is qualified to attend WIS, all Admissions Committees operate need-blind. However, because the financial need of qualified applicants is greater than the available funds, the Director of Admissions and Financial Aid must be need-sensitive when making the final admissions decisions. WIS does maintain a Wait Pool for students who are qualified for admission and qualified for aid, but for whom funds are currently unavailable.

WHEN COMPLETING A FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION, WHY IS ACCURACY IMPORTANT?

WIS assumes the information provided in the financial aid application is accurate and truthful. However, if the School discovers any information was deliberately misleading or inaccurate, the School may revoke the financial aid award for the current academic year and refuse to consider the student's aid application for future years.

HOW ARE AWARDS ANNOUNCED?

Newly admitted students will receive their grant notifications with their offer of admission in late February. Returning students will receive grant notifications late March to mid-April, depending on when the family completes the financial aid process.

IS FINANCIAL AID CONFIDENTIAL?

Financial aid information submitted through Clarity is kept strictly confidential. The names of students who receive aid are shared only as necessary for administrative reasons. Families who receive financial aid are expected to keep the award amounts confidential and are not to discuss or provide award information to/ with other families. If a family breaches confidentiality, the School may revoke an award or refuse to consider the student's aid application for future years.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A DEADLINE IS MISSED?

Applications completed after the stated deadlines may result in reduced awards and are subject to fund availability. Please note that if a returning family fails to apply for financial aid by the stated deadline and re-enrollment contracts have been issued, they will be required to submit a standard re-enrollment contract and deposit, along with a late application for financial aid. WIS will make every effort to meet the family's needs, but cannot guarantee that full funding will be available for late applicants.

FINANCIAL AID STEP-BY-STEP

1. Complete a Clarity application for Financial Aid (Deadline: January 15)

- Go to http://app.clarityapp.com/sign-up to create an account.
- The application fee is $65

2. Within the application you will be asked to give approval for Clarity to retrieve your 2025 Federal Tax Returns and 2025 W-2s directly from the IRS (Deadline January 15)

3. In mid-January, you will be prompted to upload a copy of your 2026 W-2s (Deadline: February 1)

4. In mid-March, you will be prompted to upload a copy of your 2026 Federal Tax Return (Deadline: April 20)

5. If you do not file taxes in the US or Canada, you will be prompted to provide a letter from your employer that verifies your gross and net salary (Deadline: January 15)

FINANCIAL AID DECISIONS

Student	Timeline
Newly Admitted	Late February - Financial aid decisions will be announced at the same time as the admissions decisions.
Returning	Late March to mid-April - Financial aid decisions will be announced on a rolling basis, depending on when the family completes the financial aid process.

RESOURCES

Clarity will be holding informational webinars for families who are interested in learning more about the Clarity application. The dates are as follows:

- Tuesday, September 29: 10:00 PM
- Wednesday, September 30: 6:00 PM
- Tuesday, October 27: 10:00 PM
- Wednesday, October 28: 6:00 PM
- Tuesday, December 8: 6:00 PM

Links for the webinars can be found on the WIS website at https://www.wis.edu/tuition-financial-aid

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The School admits qualified students without regard to race, color, national and ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, mental or physical disability, age, or any other status protected by applicable law, including the DC Human Rights Act, to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the School. The School likewise complies with all applicable laws in the selection of its Board of Trustees and in the administration of its educational, admissions, scholarship and loan, athletic, and other School-administered policies and programs.