

# Tuition Assistance at City of Lakes Waldorf School



At CLWS, our commitment to an educational experience that has both ‘windows and mirrors’ for our students means creating a community that is as diverse in socioeconomic backgrounds as it is in interests, experiences, and cultures.

While we ask every CLWS family to make an investment in their child’s tuition, our robust tuition assistance program provides support for families who qualify. Because many factors guide tuition assistance decisions, we encourage families not to make assumptions about whether they are eligible, but to have a confidential conversation with our Admissions Director or a member of the Tuition Assistance Committee.

Tuition Assistance is based solely on a family’s demonstrated need, which is defined as the difference between the amount a family can be expected to contribute to the cost of the student’s education and the amount of annual tuition at CLWS. CLWS does not offer academic, or other merit-based scholarships.

## TUITION ASSISTANCE AWARDS

Through tuition assistance, sibling discounts, and payment plans, we strive to make CLWS affordable for all families whose students have been admitted.

Each year, one-third of CLWS families receive some level of financial aid, which consists entirely of grants that need not be repaid. Tuition Assistance covers portions of the comprehensive tuition, but never 100%. Many factors are used to determine financial need, including income, assets, taxes, family size, unusual expenses, and number of children attending tuition-based schools.

## AWARD DECISIONS

Tuition Assistance applications are reviewed by the Tuition Assistance Committee, which determines awards using a standardized calculation derived by the TADS for Financial Aid database.

Awards are processed by the Tuition Assistance Committee. All information required for the application process is kept in strictest confidence. We expect that new families who begin by paying full tuition to the school will continue to do so unless unforeseen circumstances make that impossible.

We advise families not to go to extraordinary lengths to pay full tuition their first year in the hope of receiving tuition assistance the following year. If a current family's financial situation changes significantly due to unforeseen circumstances since joining the school, we encourage the family to apply for financial aid. All families, current and new, follow the same process for application and decision.



## Tuition Assistance FAQ

### What is the process of applying for Tuition Assistance?

1. Families new to CLWS must first submit an Admissions application for their student(s). Be sure to indicate your plans to apply for tuition assistance on your application.
2. All TADS Financial Aid applications must be submitted to the TADS system by February 20, 2024 to be considered for an award.

Applications are considered complete when the following is received in TADS:

- A completed Financial Aid [application](#).
- A copy of your completed 2023 tax return.

### What else do I need to know about applying for Tuition Assistance for the first time?

1. If all students in a family are in Grade 1 or older, City of Lakes Waldorf School assumes that each parent has the capacity to earn a minimum of \$20,000. If this minimum per parent income is not reported, it will be added to your income estimation. This may have an impact on your award. If there are special circumstances that do not allow both parents to work, you may request an exception in writing.
2. Each parent in families with separate households must complete a TADS Financial Aid application for tuition assistance if they intend to apply such funds to their portion of the tuition obligation. In cases where a student's household is split and both contribute financially or with time to the child's well-being, each household is responsible for 50% of the tuition. Consequently, each household can independently apply for tuition assistance for their respective portion of the tuition. If families opt for one household to cover both accounts or if the



court has established different standards, this arrangement remains between the households and does not involve CLWS. Tuition assistance is not guaranteed for either household and is contingent upon the family's financial need and the availability of aid. If there is only one legal guardian and no financial support from another parent or guardian, the sole guardian must declare so in writing as part of the application, providing legal documentation from a judge, attorney, or licensed therapist affirming the sole financial responsibility rests with them. This declaration must be reaffirmed annually in writing by the parent.

3. Any extenuating financial circumstances that are not captured in the application should be detailed in an attached letter and submitted at the same time the application is submitted.
4. Final award decisions are made by the Tuition Assistance Committee based on the recommendations from TADS. All information is held in the utmost confidence.
5. CLWS does not offer scholarships or merit-based awards at this time. All awards are need-based awards.
6. Tuition assistance awards are gifts, not loans; they range greatly in amount but are not full tuition awards.

**For Current Families already receiving Tuition Assistance:**

1. Families are asked to reapply for Tuition Assistance each year.
2. Please follow the same process with TADS as outlined in the above section, noting that the process for returning families occurs in the fall from October through the end of November. Fall Application dates will be communicated to returning families each year.



## **When will we know if we have received a Tuition Assistance Award?**

1. Tuition Assistance is only awarded to families once a student has gone through the Admissions process and been accepted.
  - a. For mid-year applications: A minimum of 2-weeks processing time will occur between the time of all documentation and application parts submitted, to receiving an award response. Mid-year TA awards are based on aid-availability.
2. Awards are announced by April 1 to all new families who have completed the process within the due dates.

## **If we receive a Tuition Assistance award this year, will it be the same next year?**

Financial need and awards are recalculated every year, using current information. Families are required to re-apply for Tuition Assistance yearly. If there is little change in a family's circumstances, one can expect that awards will be renewed at a similar level. Should your need increase or decrease significantly, CLWS will reevaluate your financial award.

## **We're a current family that has never sought tuition assistance before, but our circumstances have changed. Does it make sense for us to apply this year?**

If your financial situation has changed significantly since your child/children started at CLWS, you should consider applying for tuition assistance. CLWS makes every effort to be helpful when circumstances are beyond a family's control (i.e., loss of job, death in the family, or unexpected illness). The school is usually not able to support parents who choose to make a change in their employment status that reduces their income (i.e., a working parent who returns to school, or a parent who chooses to quit his/her job to start a business).



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**To learn more about Tuition Assistance at CLWS, we invite you to contact:**  
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612.767.1506, or [genevaredmond@clws.org](mailto:genevaredmond@clws.org).