



Tuition Assistance Program 2024–2025

What is the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)?

Tuition assistance is a tuition reduction based on demonstrated financial need. It is similar to “financial aid” in other settings.

Commitment to Access for All at WSL

We recognize and value the importance of making a Waldorf School of Lexington (WSL) education affordable to families of diverse economic means. Socio-economic diversity is an important part of our inclusive school mission. WSL strives to make an independent school education accessible to qualified students, regardless of their families’ financial circumstances.

Our goal is that all students and families who have been accepted can be included in our community and experience a transformative Waldorf education. To this end, we work hard to:

- Maintain tuition levels that are lower than other independent schools in the greater Boston region.
- Invite families to apply to our **confidential** Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)
- Extend a 10% sibling discount to families with more than one child at the school. Sibling discounts are not available to those receiving TAP

We offer our Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) based on need

TAP awards are based solely on a family’s ability to pay and do not need to be repaid. WSL adheres to the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) guidelines for administering financial aid. WSL uses FACTS, an online financial assistance calculation platform, for computing a family’s needs. When applying for TAP, a FACTS application must be filled out online and prior year tax documents must be uploaded. We appreciate the thoroughness of the TAP application process, as it asks for information about family assets, debts, and taxable and nontaxable income. All of this information is taken into consideration when calculating an award amount.

TAP covers the following:

- School day tuition for Buttercups (Transitional Nursery) through Grade 8

TAP does not cover the following:

- Aftercare & Extended Day costs
- Lunch program
- Tuition Protection Payment (TPP)
- Holding Deposit (HD) *Note: TAP is applied after the HD is deducted from Tuition*
- Athletics
- Instrumental Music Lessons
- Parent-Child Classes
- Summer Program

Application Procedures

Annual Process. The Tuition Assistance Program is administered on an annual basis. Thus, a new FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment online application is required each year. The application is accessed through your [family](#)

[FACTS account](#).

Good Standing. The applicant's WSL accounts—including tuition, fees, late charges, etc.—must be current, or the applicant must have a payment plan approved by the Business Office.

Complete and Timely Application:

Applicants must complete the online FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment ([available here](#)) by the school's deadline of February 15. Late or incomplete applications may not be considered. These applications are reviewed at the discretion of the TAP committee.

TAP Committee

The Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) Committee oversees the entire tuition assistance application and award process and makes all award decisions. The TAP Committee is authorized to modify financial need assessments based on additional information obtained through interviews and other processes, and to reconsider awards that are appealed. The TAP Committee is overseen by two designated members of the Board of Trustees. Their role is to assure the program is administered consistent with the School's intended philosophy, but will never have access to or information about any individual family's financial information or application status.

Award Guidelines

Availability. Families with children in Buttercups (Transitional Nursery) through Eighth Grade are invited to apply. Sibling discounts are not available to those receiving financial assistance.

Award Limitations. Awards are based on assessed financial need. Most tuition assistance awards range between 10 percent (10%) and forty percent (40%) of tuition; where the need is demonstrated, applicants may receive rewards as high as 80% of tuition. Our tuition assistance funds are additionally supported by the [Susan Cody Scholarship Fund \(SCSF\)](#), established by the Waldorf School of Lexington's Board of Trustees in 2019 with the goal of making Waldorf education accessible to as many families as possible.

New Students. Families new to WSL who apply after the below deadlines may submit a tuition assistance application any time after completing the enrollment/registration process. Awards will be made according to the availability of funds and the family's financial situation.

Application Schedule/Deadlines

STEP 1: By February 15, 2024: Complete and submit an online Financial Aid application through the [FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment portal](#). It takes four to five days for FACTS to fully process your forms. Please only submit applications, documents, and forms directly to FACTS. The Business Office will access applications through FACTS. (If applicable, non-custodial parents must also submit an online TAP application and submit tax forms directly to FACTS.)

STEP 2: By February 15, 2024: Submit signed copies of your 2023 Tax Form 1040 (or as soon as it is available), your 2022 tax return with all supporting schedules, and copies of your 2023 and 2022 W-2s. Please upload all documents to FACTS via their secure upload process.

STEP 3: By March 15, 2024: TAP decisions will be emailed on or before this date. We recognize the compressed timing that decision dates represent; **if the award, including the appeal process, does not work for your family circumstances, please advise the Business Office by March 31, 2024 and the school will release you from your contract, including refund of Holding Deposit.**

Policies

- Tuition assistance decisions are made once admission is offered.
- The FACTS report is used as a tool to equally evaluate all applicants' financial status; it does not determine the amount of aid granted.

- The school will consider the assets and income of both parents and/or legal guardians, regardless of marital status.
- Both financially responsible parents/guardians must complete an application and provide the required tax returns.
- If the custodial parent has remarried, the school will consider the assets of the spouse.
- The TAP Committee may request an interview in person or by phone.
- The TAP Committee holds **all information in the strictest of confidence**.

Equal Opportunity

The Waldorf School of Lexington welcomes students, families, faculty, and staff of all races, ethnicities, cultural and religious heritages, economic backgrounds, geographic origins, gender identities, sexual orientations, and family structures. We reject discrimination in all its forms. WSL has adopted the position statement of the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA).

Tuition Assistance Program FAQs

Q: How are TAP awards determined?

To help us objectively determine what a family is able to contribute to tuition expenses, WSL uses a third-party financial aid system, FACTS. Based on the financial information families provide through the application, FACTS provides a thorough estimation of what a family may be able to afford. Among many factors, FACTS takes into account the following:

- Income of parents/caregivers
- Family assets
- Number of dependents
- Number of children in tuition charging schools

Q: How does a family apply for tuition assistance?

TAP is an annual process. Thus, a new FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment online application is required each year. The application is accessed through your family FACTS account. Please [click here](#) to apply.

Q: Will my TAP award remain the same as long as my child or children attend WSL?

Every family will complete a new FACTS application each year. Assuming families have not had any significant changes to their yearly household income, assets, family size, or structure, your award will likely remain somewhat consistent from year to year.

We award assistance to returning families before new families. Thus, it is critical that returning families submit their TAP applications by the deadline so WSL's financial commitment can remain consistent..

Q: Who needs to complete a TAP application?

WSL expects all parents/caregivers to contribute to a student's educational expenses. In the case of divorce or separation, the custodial parent (and spouse, if applicable) and non-custodial parent (and spouse, if applicable) must submit an application. This information is collected in order to determine the ability, not the willingness, of each parent to support their child's education expenses.

Q: Do I have to reapply for financial assistance each year?

Families must complete the FACTS application annually. Each family's current financial circumstances are calculated along with the rates of tuition for the next school year.

Questions

If you have further questions, please contact the Business Office at (781) 863-1062 x514.