

The goal of the Financial Aid Policy is to allow access to a Walden School education for those students who are in need of tuition assistance while maintaining a sustainable financial position and offering a consistent process for the Financial Aid Committee to determine awards.

To be eligible for Financial Aid a family must demonstrate financial need based on criteria established by the School's third-party processor and also demonstrate the mission and values of the School. The completed application provides a comprehensive review of a family's finances and is submitted directly to the School's third-party processor by the family. Walden School's Financial Aid Committee reviews the results received. Final aid decisions are based on the committee's assessment of an applicants' need and the budgeted funds available. Unfortunately, there is always a greater demand for aid than there are resources. Information reviewed by the Financial Aid committee and discussions within the committee are strictly confidential. The Financial Aid Committee members are the Head of School, Admissions Director and Business Manager.

Financial need is defined as the difference between tuition and fees at Walden School and a family's ability to pay. Walden, through the financial aid evaluation process, assesses the financial strength of each family by taking into account many factors. Financial Aid awards are based upon a family's available income and liquid assets. Available income is calculated by taking income less core living expenses. All other expenses such as debt payments, car payment, student loans, credit card expenses, etc. are excluded from the calculation or capped at a predetermined amount. This ensures that lifestyle is taken out of the equation, i.e. an applicant isn't penalized for being debt free or rewarded for carrying debt. Financial aid awards reflect the difference between this amount and the sum of tuition and fees.

Walden high school students who are eligible for the Incentive Discount for attending Walden middle school will receive financial aid based on Gross Tuition prior to the Incentive Discount. These students are entitled to the greater of financial aid or the Incentive Discount, not both. Students accepting the Incentive Discount are not entitled to further discounts or incentives.

Families should apply for financial aid by using the designated third party processor by clicking on the "Financial Aid Application" at [www.walden-school.org](http://www.walden-school.org). All information must be submitted to the third party processor not directly to Walden School.

The Financial Aid Committee will make a recommendation on the amount of financial aid a family will receive. All decisions are made within 4-6 weeks of submission of application to the third party processor.

Financial Aid grants are for one school-year only. Priority for awards is determined to serve the overall goals of the school, but consideration is given to returning students and siblings. In addition to demonstrated financial need, a student's academic standing, conduct, effort and contribution to the Walden School community will be considered in the awarding of financial aid.

## Application deadlines:

All financial aid applications will be reviewed together once the School has received results from the third-party processor for all current families. **It is critical that families with current students and siblings complete the application process timely.** Specific deadline dates will be updated annually on the Walden School website.

On, or about, January 1	Families can begin submitting their application via Walden third-party processor.
On, or about, January 30	Completed forms due to processor.
On, or about, February 14	Families begin to be notified of aid awarded.
On, or about, April 15	Families who receive aid must submit their final tax documents to Processor or provide an update on the status of their tax filing. Final FA award is contingent on tax filing.
On, or about, February 1 thru February 28	New families may submit applications. Financial aid decisions will be made and announced in mid-March.

Walden School requires a valid credit card (or bank draft) to remain on file for payment of the remaining tuition balance. In the event of non-payment of the remaining tuition balance, a student's right to attend Walden School, to receive grades, transcripts, or to participate in school functions and events will be restricted, unless alternative payment methods have been agreed upon with the Head of School. Students may be suspended from school and not allowed re-admission in the event any portion of tuition is overdue and remains unpaid for a period of more than 90 days, or in the event there is a history of late payments or unfinished promises of payment. Students will not be allowed to participate in end-of-year events including, but not limited to, graduation or promotion if tuition is unpaid by May 15. All tuition balances must be paid prior to the student being accepted for the next school-year regardless of contract issuance.