

How is our Family's Financial Need Determined?

TADS (our third-party company) collects and processes the information families provide. Applicant's financial situations are evaluated and an estimated family contribution for education is determined. Many factors are taken into account, including but not limited to, all sources of income, assets, expenses, indebtedness, and family size. Considering the factors, TADS provides every family with a living allowance which protects a certain amount of income after a

All tuition assistance awards are conditional upon a family's tuition and other school financial obligations being up to date.

variety of expenses are already subtracted from a family's income. This process helps determine a family's discretionary income. The more discretionary income a family has, the higher the family's tuition contribution recommendation. TADS relies on a standard method to assess resources available to contribute toward a child's educational expenses.

Separated/Divorced Parents/Step-Parents/Significant Others/Partners

DWS will consider the income and assets of both parents in making a tuition assessment, and DWS is not bound by the assertion that one parent has disclaimed responsibility for educational expenses. If either parent has remarried or has a significant other/partner living in the home, TADS and the TAP committee require the partner's assets be considered. Therefore, the partner's assets must be included on the application in order for it to be accepted. Income, expenses, assets, and liabilities of the entire "new" family unit is considered in addition to the natural (or adoptive) parent's ability to contribute to the cost of education.

Tuition assistance is not based on willingness to pay, but on one's ability to pay. In some cases, a divorced/separated parent is able to pay the full 50% of his/her child's tuition and the other parent may need to apply for assistance for their 50% responsibility. Special circumstances will be considered, such as when the non-custodial parent's location is unknown or when the non-custodial parent has no contact with the family.



Davis Waldorf School Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)

The Davis Waldorf School offers children of all backgrounds the opportunity to reap the rewards of the elegantly simple Waldorf education.



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Davis Waldorf School

seeks to establish financial relationships that are healthy for the present and future of the school and the families in it. We are committed to economic and other diversity, and the board, administration, faculty, and parents work together to raise funds, volunteer, and make challenging budgetary decisions to keep tuition within the means of the largest possible group.

The Davis Waldorf School receives no support from the government or other organizations, and we must find ways suited to our particular community to address economic diversity.

TAP Guiding Principles

It is the belief and hope of the Davis Waldorf School (DWS) that the unique education we offer is accessible to families who wish to have it, regardless of their economic status.

The Davis Waldorf School recognizes that many families are looking for a unique and rich educational experience and the benefits of an independent education, and that this type of education requires a significant financial commitment. Therefore, DWS budgets a limited amount of financial assistance for tuition through our Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).

DWS expects families to exercise their best efforts to use their own financial resources

first and to look to their own extended families—grandparents, aunts, and uncles—for tuition assistance before turning to TAP. *Dollars not paid in tuition are not received by DWS from any other source.*

It is not uncommon for DWS families, those who pay reduced tuition or full tuition, to pay 15- 20% percent or more of their income for tuition. ***The typical range of tuition assistance offered to an eligible family is between 5 and 50%.***

Who Can Apply?

Families may apply annually for tuition assistance for any child entering grades 1-8. TAP is not available for DWS preschool or kindergarten programs.

TAP Application Process

The TAP application process includes several steps such as submitting tax returns and current paystubs, among other financial items. DWS utilizes a third party company called Tuition Aid Data Service (TADs) to collect and verify families' financial data as well as to put together reports summarizing data and ranking families' ability to pay. Using PSAS helps our school ensure consistency and objectivity in evaluating financial data. In addition, the TAP committee members usually meet individually with families to get more understanding of the family's finances as well as to communicate the financial situation and needs of the school.

Tuition assistance is reserved and intended for families who have implemented all possible measures of economy, have explored all possible sources for tuition help and support, and, therefore, have no alternative to requesting assistance.

The Davis Waldorf School TAP committee considers each family's ability to pay, regardless of the number of children enrolled. A family's absence of income due to unemployment or part-time employment (including a parent pursuing a higher education degree, a matter of personal choice) is considered for only one year. In order to provide fair and equitable consideration for all families, a full-time, minimum wage income is assumed for each eligible working parent after one year.

Families who utilize the TAP process must take the time necessary to fully analyze their finances before submitting applications; they are agreeing to forgo a certain amount of financial privacy when they ask for support from the school. The TAP committee (made up of our business manager and select parent volunteers) holds family financial data with complete confidentiality, and faculty members at DWS receive no information related to TAP.

If you have questions about our Tuition Assistance Program, please email TAP@daviswaldorf.org. All inquiries are confidential.