

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE

The WSSB community is stronger when it includes families from all socioeconomic backgrounds. Tuition Assistance (TA) is a privilege we are proud to offer at our school. We strive to balance TA funding for families in need with fiscal responsibility. We receive no funding for this program so any reduction in tuition comes directly out of the school's Operating Budget and directly impacts the curriculum and programs we are able to offer our students. Before you embark on the process of applying for Tuition Assistance, please note the specific eligibility criteria below:

- Families applying for TA are required to submit:

- \*Online FACTS application

- \*Letter of Request for Tuition Assistance

- \*Supporting documents requested by FACTS

All items are submitted directly to FACTS. The application link is available on our website -- [www.waldorfsantabarbara.org](http://www.waldorfsantabarbara.org) -- under the Admissions tab.

- Applicants must agree to an independent, in-depth analysis of *both parents'* finances/assets to determine your family's eligibility for Tuition Assistance (split households may complete separate applications).
- WSSB's priority is to award assistance to the families with the most need. Lifestyle choices that result in increased non-necessary expenses or decreased discretionary income cannot be underwritten by WSSB. Approval for TA requires that a Waldorf education is among the family's highest priorities for discretionary spending.
- If only one parent is gainfully employed, and if there are no dependent children at home under 6 years old, WSSB will add into your application an *imputed income* equivalent to a full time minimum wage. This will decrease the amount of assistance available to your family.
- A family that has liquid assets in excess of 3 months income or retirement assets/accounts in excess of \$75,000 does not qualify for Tuition Assistance.
- Families who are granted TA agree to contact WSSB if the family's income increases. The family also agrees to make every effort to increase tuition payments each year eventually reaching full tuition.
- Applicants are required to clearly state the annual amount they are able to pay in tuition (in the online TA application). In the case of split households, each parent must state his/her own ability to pay. This is not an invitation to negotiate: WSSB

needs an honest assessment of what each parent/family can afford to pay. Please note that if the gap between your stated ability to pay and the FACTS independent assessment of your family's ability to pay is substantially different, WSSB may not offer any tuition assistance at all.

- Tuition Assistance agreements are held in the strictest confidence with a deep respect for privacy. Applicants agree that sharing the particulars of the family's Tuition Assistance agreement with other families will result in loss of these privileges and the family will revert to a full pay enrollment agreement. WSSB will withdraw any offer or award of tuition assistance upon discovery of false or misleading information or if the application is deemed incomplete.

If you do not meet one or more of the criteria above but would still like to apply for TA, please include a detailed explanation for each unmet criteria with your Letter of Request for TA and submit it to FACTS as part of your online application.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office at (805)-967-6656.