

Financial Aid Policies, Procedures, and Deadlines



Policy Statement

Walden Center & School is committed to being financially accessible. It is our goal to maintain a school that reflects the socioeconomic diversity of the Bay Area. All families are welcome to apply for financial aid. Walden's tuition assistance is available to all families regardless of gender, race, color, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, or family structure. Financial aid is awarded to those families that demonstrate financial need through the application process described below.

Financial aid decisions are made independently from admission decisions and in no way affect an applicant's chances for admission. Financial aid is awarded on a per family basis, not a per child basis. Tuition will not necessarily be doubled when a second child attends Walden, nor be halved when a sibling graduates from Walden.

Financial Aid Process and Eligibility

Walden uses School and Student Services for Financial Aid (SSS) to process our financial aid applications. SSS is a service of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). Based on the financial information families provide, SSS calculates an estimated family contribution (EFC) to educational expenses, which is then modified using each school's particular parameters. The EFC helps Walden make fair and objective financial aid decisions. Federal personal and business tax returns, W-2s, 1099s, and other documents as requested are used to corroborate applications.

Returning families must reapply each year, meet all stated deadlines, and complete all documentation. **Priority is given to families who meet all requirements and who apply for aid by the stated deadlines.**

Walden may not consider financial aid applications from returning families in arrears on their tuition payments. Awards are contingent on families continuing to pay their current year tuition in a timely manner.

Both parents/guardians are expected to contribute to the payment of their child's tuition regardless of legal agreements (unmarried, divorced, or separated). Parents/guardians as well as current spouses are expected to submit an application to SSS for evaluation. Separated or divorced parents may fill out separate SSS applications; this preserves privacy and accounts for the existence of two households, something SSS takes into consideration. Walden will not consider an application to be complete without the information from both parents and all current spouses.

Confidentiality

The Walden Finance Committee reviews all submissions for financial aid. The committee maintains strict confidentiality. Walden expects that families will maintain the same confidentiality regarding awards and decisions; failure to do so may result in revocation of awards.

Awards

Funds for financial aid awards are limited. Walden may not be able to meet 100% of each family's need. Awards are granted on an annual basis. Due to variations in the school's resources and the changing composition of the applicant pool, financial aid awards may vary from year to year.

Currently Walden does not award financial aid for its Extended Day Care Program (EDC) or for any additional yearly fees.

2027-2028 SCHOOL YEAR- NEW

The following items must be **fully** completed in order to be considered for financial aid:

Step	Description	Due Dates
1	Complete the SSS application available online - Walden's SSS Code: 135669 - There is an online application fee of \$60. If you have questions about filling out the SSS forms, please call the SSS Helpline at 1800-344-8328. All other questions regarding financial aid can be directed to our Business Manager, at businessmanager@waldencenterschool.org	Friday, January 15, 2027
2	Upload to SSS Walden Supplemental Financial Aid Application-New 2027-2028 (attached) to the documents section of the SSS website. <i>*This is <u>required</u>, and failure to submit will lead to delays in processing your application*</i>	January 15, 2027
3	The following documents are required to complete your financial aid application and must be uploaded onto the SSS website during your application process: - Copy of 2026 W-2 and/or 1099 form and completed Federal Income Tax Returns and Schedules for 2025. Please include all pages. Tax returns for each parent, guardian, and current spouse are required. - For business owners and partners, a copy of completed Federal Income Tax Return and Schedules for 2026 for said business or partnership. - Copy of 2026 W-2 and/or 1099 forms. If W-2 is not available, please submit the last paystub of 2026 and submit W-2 as soon as received.	Friday January 15, 2027
4	The following documents are required to complete your financial aid application and must be uploaded onto the SSS website during your application process: - Copy of completed Federal Income Tax Returns and Schedules for 2026. Please include all pages. Tax returns for each parent, guardian, and current spouse are required. - For business owners and partners, a copy of completed Federal Income Tax Return and Schedules for 2026 for said business or partnership.	February 12, 2027
5	Award notices e-mailed.	March 11, 2027
6	Enrollment contracts, deposits, and chosen payment plans in the TADS portal due.	March 18, 2027

Walden Center & School
 2446 McKinley Avenue Berkeley, CA, 94703
 Email: BusinessManager@waldencenterschool.org
www.waldencenterschool.org

Walden Center & School Financial Aid Application



Directions: Please fill this form out completely for all parents, guardians, and their spouses and upload to SSS by January 17, 2025

Student Name	Age	Entering Grade
Student Name	Age	Entering Grade

YEARLY FAMILY CONTRIBUTION

\$

How much tuition can your family (your family/household/extended family) afford to pay for the 2027-2028 school year (not including EDC fees)? **Please state yearly, not monthly amount.**

Please explain the basis for the above amount and provide any additional information.

WORKING PARENTS

The school considers it reasonable that parents or guardians of school aged children work outside the home if they are asking the school for financial assistance. We may add income to your financial assistance application, depending on the reason for not working. If you are not working, please explain why:

Parent/Guardian	Parent/Guardian	Date

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