



Financial Aid FAQs

At Riverbend School, we are committed to providing financial assistance to families who require additional tuition support after they have incorporated all other resources into their planning for educational costs. Financial aid is available to students enrolled in our Kindergarten program through 8th grade. Approximately 20% of our students receive financial assistance. All grants are based on need, as demonstrated by the financial application and tax forms the family submits.

How do I apply for Financial Aid? Complete the Parents' Financial Statement (PFS) online at <http://sss.nais.org> through the School and Student Services (SSS) website (**our school code is 2967**). The PFS will be available for the upcoming school year beginning November 1st.

What tax forms are required? Riverbend now requires tax forms from 2 years prior to the enrollment year. For example, if you are applying for financial aid for the 2019-20 school year, you would upload forms from the 2017 tax year (signed form 1040 and supporting schedules, plus any W-2s or 1099-MISC to document wages). You must also submit the most recent W-2s from the current tax year.

Have your tax documents available when completing the PFS, as most questions require the information from your year-end W-2 and federal tax return. Note that your application will not be considered complete until required documents are uploaded.

What is the likelihood of receiving financial aid? Completing a financial aid application (PFS) is the only way to learn if your family qualifies for assistance.

How Are Decisions Made? Riverbend evaluates all data received through the SSS standardized system for analyzing need. In addition, the Financial Aid Committee reviews the data supplied by the family, and makes awards according to the School's financial aid policy and available funds.

Will my financial aid continue in subsequent years? To maintain the integrity of the financial aid process and to meet standards of federal and state tax codes, the family must reapply each year. If the family's financial position remains constant, the Financial Aid office makes every effort to support the same level of education costs from one year to the next. Financial aid grants may not be renewed if the family's school account is delinquent.

How is my financial information safeguarded? Information uploaded to the SSS website including the PFS and tax documents are encrypted. Riverbend does not keep copies of tax documents. The Financial Aid Committee (Director of Finance, Director of Admission and Head of School) maintains a policy of strict confidentiality concerning all grants. We ask families receiving aid to adhere to this policy as well.

How can I obtain further financial aid information? Please visit our website at www.riverbendschool.org under Admissions/Tuition & Financial Aid. There you will find further information and deadlines. All families applying for financial aid must submit their application and

supporting documentation by the deadlines published on the website in order to be considered for financial aid. Any and all questions regarding the financial aid process should be directed to Donna Strouse, Director of Finance and Operations at 508-655-7333, ext. 100 or dstrouse@rvbs.org.