

Tuition Adjustment Program



The Denver Waldorf School (DWS) is committed to economic diversity. The Board of Trustees, College of Teachers, Faculty, Administration and parents work together to raise funds, volunteer, and make challenging budgetary decisions to keep tuition within the financial means of the largest possible group. We seek to establish financial relationships that are healthy for the school and the families within our community. Please read the following information to learn how to apply for Tuition Adjustment for the 2014-15 school year.

Guiding Principles

At DWS, we recognize that many families want the inspired learning environment that an independent Waldorf education provides, and that this type of education requires a significant financial commitment. Therefore, DWS budgets a significant portion of income to our Tuition Adjustment Program, but the budgeted funds are limited. All families who wish to provide Waldorf education for their child(ren) are encouraged to seek the means to make this education a viable option.

DWS expects families to exercise their best creative efforts to use their own financial resources before turning to the Tuition Adjustment Program. It is not uncommon for a DWS family to pay 15-20% or more of their income for tuition. This percentage applies to both full and reduced tuition families. Tuition Adjustment is not based on willingness to pay, but on one's ability to pay. Special circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

At this time, Tuition Adjustment is available for children in Grades 1—12. The typical range of Tuition Adjustment offered to an eligible family is between 5% to 50%. Families with three or more children enrolled in DWS may be eligible for additional adjustment.

The Tuition Adjustment Committee and the Business Affairs Director keep all financial and personal information completely confidential.

Tuition Adjustment Application Process

A Tuition Adjustment award is determined using a three-part process.

- 1. School Registration:** Returning DWS students must turn in an unsigned Tuition and Enrollment Contract with the Tuition Assistance box checked by February 28, 2014. Prospective students who require financial assistance should turn in their unsigned contract with the Tuition Assistance box checked as soon as possible upon admission.
- 2. FACTS Grant & Aid:** DWS uses a third-party company, FACTS Grant & Aid, to collect and verify a family's financial data. Using FACTS helps our school ensure consistency and objectivity in evaluating financial data. This process must be completed by February 28, 2014 for returning DWS families, or as soon as possible upon admission for prospective families.
- 3. Individual Meetings:** Tuition Adjustment Committee members usually meet with first-time applicants to give an overview of the process and learn more about the family's financial circumstances.

Tuition Adjustment awards will be granted to returning DWS students only if their current tuition and other school financial obligations are up-to-date.

FACTS and Determining Your Family's Financial Need

FACTS Grant & Aid uses key personal and financial information to evaluate a family's need for financial aid. FACTS verifies the financial information provided on the application, and then calculates discretionary income based on many factors, including (but are not limited to) all sources of income, assets, expenses, indebtedness and family size, and includes a calculation for a base living allowance. The more discretionary income a family is calculated to have, the lower the FACTS recommended Tuition Adjustment award.

The Tuition Adjustment Committee will not evaluate or award Tuition Adjustment until all processes with FACTS are complete. FACTS makes a recommendation to DWS on how much financial assistance is needed by families who have applied. This recommendation is part of the information considered by the Tuition Adjustment Committee's in determining the final award.

The first step of the FACTS process is to complete the online application.

Get started now: <https://online.factsmgt.com/signin/45VR6>

Once the application is completed, you must submit all supporting documentation to FACTS. Please be sure to pay the \$30 application fee, submit a complete application, and provide all tax forms, W-2's or supporting documentation so that your application can be processed. FACTS requires 2012 tax and 2013 W-2 information unless your family is self-employed. Self-employed families are required to supply 2013 tax information along with the necessary IRS supporting schedules. This requirement applies regardless of tax extensions.



Please submit your supporting documents to FACTS in one of the following ways:

1. Upload in PDF Format online
2. Fax to: 1-866-315-9264
3. Mail to: FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment, P.O. Box 82524, Lincoln, NE 68501-2524

Information for Divorced or Separated Parents

DWS will consider the income and assets of both parents in making a tuition adjustment assessment. DWS is not bound by the assertion that one parent has disclaimed responsibility for education expenses except in the case of a court determination.

In some cases, a divorced/separated parent is able to pay their portion of his/her child's tuition and the other parent may need to apply for assistance for their portion of the tuition responsibility.

Information for Step-Parents and Unmarried Partners

If either parent has remarried or has a significant other/partner living in the home, FACTS and the Tuition Adjustment Committee will 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 for the entire family unit are considered.

Tuition Adjustment Contact Information

Lori Pucelik, Business Affairs Director, is available to answer questions or provide guidance in the Tuition Adjustment application process. She can be reached at (303) 777-0531 ext. 104 or business@denverwaldorf.org.