



# Westover Financial Aid Frequently Asked Questions

## **1. Who may apply for financial aid?**

Any family who is interested in applying for financial aid, may apply through School and Student Service (SSS), to be considered for need-based financial aid. There is also a limited financial aid budget for international applicants who apply through SSS.

## **2. When and how should we apply for financial aid?**

The 2018 Parents' Financial Statement (PFS) is the required financial aid application. It is due, along with your 2017 tax forms by February 1st, 2019 for all new and returning families. Your 2018 W-2 and/or 1099 are due by February, 15th, 2019 and your 2018 1040 is due by April 15th, 2019. Your financial aid award will be finalized once we have received and reviewed your 2018 1040. We recommend that you request information about applying for need-based aid at the same time you request application materials, or when you think you might like to be considered for financial assistance. Significant funds are not reserved beyond our initial round of awards. Therefore, it is very important to meet all deadlines.

## **3. Does every applicant applying for Financial Aid receive it?**

Financial aid applicants usually outnumber those who do not request financial aid. Therefore, we are unable to make awards to all families who request need-based financial aid.

## **4. What if I don't get the award I was hoping for but want to enroll anyway?**

If a family does not receive all of the need-based financial aid they hoped for, it is highly unlikely that additional funding will be available in subsequent years, unless there is a significant change in that family's financial circumstances. (i.e. job loss, death or illness of a parent, etc.) Depending on the financial need of the new applicants and returning students, Westover may or may not be able to extend financial aid to those who make requests for reconsideration or for those on the financial aid wait list.

## **5. How is financial aid determined?**

Westover subscribes to the principals and services of the School and Student Service to determine financial need. School and Student Service (SSS) is a needs-analysis system that provides a basic guideline to provide consistency in assessing need. Westover School is committed to meeting the financial need of its accepted and returning students. Thanks to the generosity of so many, Westover is grateful to be able to extend financial aid to so many well-deserving applicants. We wish we had more, to do more. So, given the reality and limits of our financial aid budget, we ask families applying for financial aid to take all of this into consideration as you work with the Financial Aid Committee and the Director of Financial aid.

## **6. Who is responsible for completing the financial aid forms in the case of separated or divorced parents?**

In situations of divorce or separation, all parents, including non-custodial parents, must complete a Parents' Financial Statement (PFS) and provide his/her tax documents. Parents have the primary responsibility to finance the education of his/her daughter, to the extent they are able. Therefore, we require a completed Parents' Financial Statement (PFS) and tax return from each parent. If either parent is remarried, we will also take into consideration the spouses contributions to the household along with any obligations to his or her own children. He/she is required to provide his/her tax documents as well. A financial aid award cannot be made without information from, or about all parents. Documentation should be provided in cases where a

parent is no longer financially responsible for his/her daughter. When you have children in college, SSS will take that into consideration. Colleges/universities, however do not necessarily take into consideration tuitions at independent schools. Therefore, families often receive more financial aid from independent schools than colleges/universities. If families wish to apply for financial aid at Westover School, families should also make an application for financial aid at each institution their children attend.

**7. How is financial aid determined in subsequent years?**

Westover requires that all applicants complete and submit the Parents' Financial Statement (PFS) to SSS, and upload all supporting documentation each year that a student wishes to return to Westover School. These items must be submitted by their assigned deadlines. Awards are evaluated annually based on the most recent year's financial information. There is also the expectation that, as with all Westover students, your daughter's re-enrollment and subsequent financial aid award is contingent upon her maintaining a high level of citizenship and scholarship. The Financial Aid Committee will review and when possible, make adjustments appropriate to changes in financial resources and tuition increases. Westover cannot always guarantee meeting the increased needs, and changes in the family's financial situation, but will do our best to consider all requests.

**8. Is a business tax return required from parents who own their own business?**

Yes. If parents own a business, he/she will need to provide their business tax return as well as their personal tax return. Please be sure to submit all tax documentation including, but not limited to, K-1s, 1120s, 1065s and your Schedule E.

**9. Is it possible to get a fee waiver for the PFS?**

Westover does not assign fee waivers to families for completion of the PFS. SSS will apply a fee waiver at the end of the application depending upon income and information provided. If you need further information, please visit <https://www.solutionsbysss.com/>.

**10. What if I have more than one child in tuition charging schools?**

If more than one child in a family attends a tuition-charging institution, it is required that a family applying for financial aid does so at each of the institutions their children attend. However, a family only needs to complete one Parents' Financial Statement (PFS) listing all of the schools that children will be applying to. Please be sure to include all children and educational expenses in the designated section on the PFS.

**11. When will we be notified if we have received an award?**

Financial aid decisions are sent to parents of newly admitted students, along with their admission decision on March 10. Returning students will receive their financial aid decisions, along with their re-enrollment contract in late February.

**12. Is our application confidential?**

All financial information submitted in support of a financial aid application is held in strict confidence. All financial aid awards are confidential agreements between the recipient family and Westover School. Therefore, it is the expectation that Financial Aid recipients, and their families, will honor this confidentiality as well; a student may forfeit her award if this confidentiality is breached.

**13. Whom do I contact if I need assistance completing the PFS?**

Please contact the SSS Customer Service Center at 1-800-344-8328 or [sss@solutionsbysss.com](mailto:sss@solutionsbysss.com) Westover's School Code is 8152.

**14. Will Westover hold informational sessions on the financial aid process?**

Yes, Westover will hold informational sessions on the financial aid process in the Fall of 2018. Please check back for more information.