



Centennial Montessori School Tuition Assistance Policy

Making Montessori Accessible, Reflecting the Richness of Our Community

At Centennial Montessori School, our tuition assistance program is grounded in our mission to make Montessori education accessible to families from a broad range of economic backgrounds. We believe that a rich educational environment is one that reflects the diversity of the community we live in—economically, culturally, and socially. This tapestry of perspectives and life experiences strengthens our classrooms and benefits every child.

To support this vision, we dedicate 15% of our annual operating expenses to tuition assistance. These funds are carefully allocated each year to reflect both demonstrated financial need and alignment with our school's values and long-term goals.

In order to ensure equity and transparency, our Tuition Assistance Committee uses a third-party service—ISM/FAST (Independent School Management's Financial Aid for School Tuition)—to provide an objective analysis of each applicant's financial situation. ISM/FAST takes into account both local cost-of-living factors and national economic norms to generate a recommendation that guides our committee's decisions. While this assessment is an important tool, final determinations are made by the Centennial Montessori team with thoughtful consideration of each family's unique context.

We understand that some families have more than one child enrolled in tuition-based schools. However, to equitably distribute our limited aid resources:

-We do not consider tuition paid to other private schools if Centennial Montessori offers the same grade level. This reflects our commitment to prioritizing families who choose Centennial Montessori as their primary educational home during the years we serve.

- We prioritize financial aid for families continuing through our elementary program, as long-term engagement in Montessori education is central to our mission and classroom structure.

- We will consider tuition for siblings enrolled in programs or grades that Centennial Montessori does not offer (e.g., high school or specialized educational settings), only if the family has applied for financial aid at the other institution and submits documentation of both tuition and any award received.

- Appeals: Families who believe their circumstances warrant an exception may submit a written appeal explaining their educational decisions and providing additional financial context. The Financial Aid Committee reviews all appeals with care and confidentiality.

Application Timeline

To be considered for tuition assistance for the upcoming academic year:

- Submit your completed application by February 1st
- Decisions will be sent with enrollment or re-enrollment notifications

Late applications may be considered on a rolling basis, pending availability of funds.