

**Montessori Center School**  
**Financial Aid Guidelines**  
**Effective 2019-2020**

Paying for your child/children's education at Montessori Center School is an investment in their future and also a significant financial commitment for a family. MCS recognizes this and aims to provide educational opportunity for students, by bridging the gap between what a family can afford to pay and the full cost of an MCS education. It is important for you to know that MCS does not have an endowment to support financial aid. Every year we designate a small part of our operational budget to support financial aid. Therefore, the amounts of funds we offer are largely dependent on enrollment and donations to the school.

MCS does not offer merit or academic scholarships, reserving all financial aid for those families with a demonstrated need, and for strategic enrollment needs.

For families wishing to apply for financial aid, MCS uses an online software called SMART AID, to analyze financial data and make recommendations to the Financial Aid Committee. SMART AID charges a processing fee of \$35 per family. Parents complete the web-based application and submit it to SMART AID. SMART AID uses a formula to calculate a financial award recommendation based on the family's ability to pay. The MCS Financial Aid Committee then reviews the recommendations on a case-by-case basis to determine financial aid awards. The amount of the award will be based on the SMART AID recommendation, the Financial Aid Committee as well as the enrollment needs of the school. MCS will send out award letters to families in late March to assist families in making tuition plans for the upcoming school year. Families who applied for Financial Aid are not bound by the enrollment contract they signed until they have been notified regarding Financial Aid. Montessori Center School maintains strict confidentiality over financial aid information.

Awards are given for one year and must be renewed annually based on financial need. Families must submit a financial aid application along with supporting documents each year. To start the process for assistance for 2019-20 tuition, please follow these steps:

- ❖ Click on the link: <https://www.smartaidforparents.com/#/login>. The school Id is 13780.
- ❖ 2018 Federal & State tax returns will need to be filed by the financial aid deadline, since they will need to be uploaded or mailed with the application.

*Montessori Center School admits students of any race, color, religion, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the School. It does not discriminate programs on the basis of race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, color, or national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational programs, admission policies, tuition assistance programs, and athletic or other school-administered programs.*