



Admissions Process

Application Form and Interview

1. Please complete the application form and send it to the school along with the appropriate fee as noted in the Costs section below. Commonwealth offers a limited number of fee waivers; to request one, contact the admissions office. We encourage you to apply online at commschool.org/apply.
2. We welcome students and parents to visit Commonwealth for a tour and interview. During this 1 ½-hour visit, prospective students and their families meet with a member of the admissions committee and see the school. Please schedule by phone with our front office at 617-266-7525.

The application form deadline is January 15, 2020 for domestic applicants and December 15, 2019 for international applicants.

Day Visit and Writing Samples

3. Either when you schedule your interview or at the end of your interview, make an appointment for a full-day visit at Commonwealth. A student host will accompany you to various classes, all-school meeting, and lunch. Please let us know in advance if there are any classes you would particularly like to attend. Please note that we require international applicants to submit SSAT and/or TOEFL scores before scheduling a day visit.

The day visit is an essential part of the admissions process, as it allows you to explore the school and us to get to know you better. When visiting classes, though the subject matter may be new or unfamiliar to you, you should watch how they are conducted and how students and teachers interact. Teachers will welcome your participation in class, but if you prefer to observe silently, you should feel free to do so. By the end of the day, you should have a sense of what it is like to be a Commonwealth student.

We do not ask you to submit an essay with your application. Instead, during the day visit, you will be asked to complete two short writing samples. Times to write will be included in the personalized schedule you receive on the morning of your visit. Most applicants say they prefer writing during the day visit to writing at home. If you have an additional essay you would like to submit, you are welcome to do so.

Supporting Materials

4. Please submit your academic record from your current school. You should request this record by giving the transcript release form to your school principal or guidance counselor. Your transcript is due by February 1, 2020.
5. We require three recommendations from current teachers: one from a math or science teacher, one from an English or social studies teacher, and one from your head of school, principal, guidance counselor, or placement counselor. Remember to ask your recommenders in the late fall so that they will have enough time to complete the forms and accompanying letters and send them to us by February 1, 2020.
6. Commonwealth participates in the Secondary School Admissions Test (SSAT) program. You must register for the test at least three weeks before the test date. You should arrange to take the SSAT no later than the January administration date. Be sure to have your scores sent to Commonwealth. Our SSAT Code is 2542. You can register for the SSAT online at ssat.org.

We have a small number of fee waivers for the SSAT. Contact Director of Admissions and Financial Aid Carrie Healy to request one. If you miss the testing deadline, call the School and we will refer you to consultants who offer special administration of the SSAT.

We also accept the Independent School Entrance Examination (ISEE). Our ISEE code is 220222.

7. You are welcome to submit additional materials with your application such as videos or samples of your artwork. Please note that whatever you submit will not be returned to you.

Decisions

We release admissions decisions on March 10. Students who have been offered admission must inform us of their decision by April 10. If space remains, we will consider late applications.

Costs

For 2019–2020, tuition is \$45,848 with additional fees of \$1,971, for a total cost of \$47,819. The application fee is \$60 for U.S. residents and \$120 for international students.

Financial Aid

We hope that cost will not be a factor as you consider Commonwealth. Since the founding of the school, through a strong commitment to financial aid, we have been dedicated to welcoming as many qualified students as possible. The school granted over \$1.3 million in aid in 2019-20 to 30% of the student body. All grants are made based on demonstrated financial need. Please check the appropriate box on the application form if you are interested in receiving information about financial aid. The deadline for submitting your application (known as a Parents' Financial Statement or PFS) is February 1, 2020. In addition, you must submit IRS Form 4506-T and your completed 2018 federal tax return with all schedules, W-2s, and 1099s by February 1, 2020; and your 2019 W-2s, 1099s, and federal tax return by February 15, 2020.

Checklist

- Submit your completed application form
- Schedule and complete your interview
- Schedule and complete your day visit
- Take the SSAT or ISEE and send your scores to Commonwealth
- Request a transcript from your current school
- Request three recommendations
- Supply all financial aid application materials (if applicable)

Important Dates for 2019–20 Admissions

October 19

November 16

December 14

January 4

} SSAT Dates

January 15

Application form deadline for domestic applicants

December 15

Application form deadline for international applicants

February 1

{ Deadline for all supporting application materials
PFS submission deadline

March 10

Decisions mailed

April 10

Student's reply date



Application for Admission

APPLICANT INFORMATION

_____ Preferred first name _____
First Name Middle Last Name Suffix
Student's email _____ Cell phone _____
Gender _____ Date of birth _____ Place of birth _____
Citizenship _____ Ethnicity (optional) _____
Current grade _____ Applying for grade _____ Year of entry _____
Name and address of current school: _____

List any other schools you have attended:

_____ Dates attended _____

_____ Continue list on additional page if necessary.

Optional: Attach a recent photograph

FAMILY INFORMATION

Household 1 (Applicant's Primary Residence)

Address _____
Street
_____ Main phone _____
City State ZIP / Postal Code Country

Parent or Guardian 1

Prefix First Name Middle Last Name Suffix

Relationship to Applicant:

Father Mother Stepfather Stepmother Guardian Other (please specify) _____

Email _____ Cell phone _____ Business phone _____

Employer and job title _____

Employer's address _____

Continued on next page

Parent or Guardian 2

Prefix First Name Middle Last Name Suffix

Relationship to Applicant:

Father Mother Stepfather Stepmother Guardian Other (please specify)

Email Cell phone Business phone

Employer and job title

Employer's address

Household 2 (If Applicable)

Address

Street

Main phone

City

State

ZIP / Postal Code

Country

Parent or Guardian 1

Prefix First Name Middle Last Name Suffix

Relationship to Applicant:

Father Mother Stepfather Stepmother Guardian Other (please specify)

Email Cell phone Business phone

Employer and job title

Employer's address

Parent or Guardian 2

Prefix First Name Middle Last Name Suffix

Relationship to Applicant:

Father Mother Stepfather Stepmother Guardian Other (please specify)

Email Cell phone Business phone

Employer and job title

Employer's address

Siblings

Name

Age

School or College

Continue list on an additional page if necessary.

FINANCIAL AID

Check this box if you would like information on financial aid. Please note that your family will not be considered for financial aid unless you complete the required steps and submit the requested materials by the appropriate deadlines. In the case of separated or divorced parents, we require financial aid applications from both parents.

ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

The applicant should complete this section.

Please describe the extracurricular activities and sports you participate in at school and your level of involvement in each one. Attach another sheet of paper if you need additional space.

Please describe your hobbies, activities, and other interests outside school. Attach another sheet of paper if you need additional space.

SIGNATURES

Signature of applicant

Date

Signature of parent or guardian

Date

The application fee is \$60 for U.S. residents and \$120 for international applicants. To request a fee waiver, please contact Director of Admissions and Financial Aid Carrie Healy at (617) 266-7525 or chealy@commschool.org.



Recommendation Form For Principal or Counselor

To the Student:

Please fill in the information directly below. Give this form and a stamped envelope addressed to Commonwealth School to your head of school, principal, guidance counselor, or placement counselor.

Name of Applicant _____ Applying for Grade _____

Recommender's Name _____ Position _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

To the Principal or Counselor:

Commonwealth is a small school with rigorous academic standards. We know that grades and test scores alone give an incomplete picture of a prospective student, which is why we rely heavily on our interactions with the applicant and on recommendations from fellow educators.

Please complete the Applicant Description and mail it to us with a letter. In your letter, tell us how long and in what capacity you have known this student. Please comment more specifically on those qualities listed in the Applicant Description, and give your estimation of the student's personal and intellectual promise. Please mention any special interests or talents. We would like to know about weak points as well as strengths, and would be grateful for information about specific emotional or physical difficulties that you think would bear on the candidate's life at school. If you feel that, in order to give an honest appraisal of the applicant you must disclose sensitive information, we will honor a request to return your letter to you after the admissions decision has been made.

On behalf of Commonwealth's admissions committee, thank you for taking the time to think and write about this applicant.

Please submit a letter of recommendation with this form.

Applicant Description

Thank you for filling out this description. We realize that such checklists are inexact, and so we welcome any comments or qualifications you may wish to add in your letter.

A. Background Questions

In what year(s) have you taught this student? _____

How well do you know the student as a person? _____

What are the first three words that come to mind to describe this student? _____

B. Intellectual Ability and Achievement

	Cannot judge 0	Poor 1	Below average 2	Average 3	Above average 4	Excellent 5
a. Ability	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
b. Motivation	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
c. Creative qualities	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
d. Self-discipline	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
e. Potential for growth	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
f. Written expression	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
g. Oral expression	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

C. Character and Personality

	Cannot judge 0	Poor 1	Below average 2	Average 3	Above average 4	Excellent 5
a. Energy and initiative	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
b. Leadership	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
c. Self-confidence	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
d. Warmth of personality	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
e. Sense of humor	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
f. Concern for others	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
g. Emotional maturity	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
h. Reaction to advice and criticism	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
i. Respect from teachers	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
j. Respect from classmates	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

D. Academic Conduct

1. Does the student attend class regularly? Yes No Does the student arrive to class on time? Yes No

2. If the student hands in work late, what are the most likely reasons?

- Work is never late Procrastination Perfectionism
 Busy with many activities Lost the assignment Other: _____

3. Is there any reason to doubt the applicant's academic integrity? Yes No

4. Has the applicant ever been dismissed or suspended from school? Yes No

If the answer to question 3 or 4 is yes, please explain in your letter.



Recommendation Form English or Social Studies Teacher

To the Student:

Please fill in the information directly below. Give this form and a stamped envelope addressed to Commonwealth School to your current English or social studies teacher.

Name of Applicant _____ Applying for Grade _____

Recommender's Name _____ Position _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

To the Teacher:

Commonwealth is a small school with rigorous academic standards. We know that grades and test scores alone give an incomplete picture of a prospective student, which is why we rely heavily on our interactions with the applicant and on recommendations from fellow educators.

Please complete the Applicant Description and mail it to us with a letter. In your letter, tell us how long and in what capacity you have known this student. Please comment more specifically on those qualities listed in the Applicant Description, and give your estimation of the student's personal and intellectual promise. Please mention any special interests or talents. We would like to know about weak points as well as strengths, and would be grateful for information about specific emotional or physical difficulties that you think would bear on the candidate's life at school. If you feel that, in order to give an honest appraisal of the applicant you must disclose sensitive information, we will honor a request to return your letter to you after the admissions decision has been made.

On behalf of Commonwealth's admissions committee, thank you for taking the time to think and write about this applicant.

Please submit a letter of recommendation with this form.

Applicant Description

We realize that such checklists are inexact, so we welcome any comments or qualifications you may wish to add in your letter.

A. Background Questions

In what years(s) have you taught this student? _____

In which course(s) do you teach this student currently? _____

How well do you know the student as a person? _____

What are the first three words that come to mind to describe this student? _____

Is your most recent course with this student honors level or accelerated? Yes No

B. Intellectual Ability and Achievement

	Cannot judge 0	Poor 1	Below average 2	Average 3	Above average 4	Excellent 5
a. Ability	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
b. Motivation	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
c. Creative qualities	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
d. Self-discipline	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
e. Potential for growth	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
f. Written expression	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
g. Oral expression	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
h. Reading comprehension	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

C. Character and Personality

	Cannot judge 0	Poor 1	Below average 2	Average 3	Above average 4	Excellent 5
a. Energy and initiative	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
b. Leadership	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
c. Self-confidence	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
d. Warmth of personality	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
e. Sense of humor	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
f. Concern for others	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
g. Emotional maturity	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
h. Reaction to advice and criticism	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
i. Respect from teachers	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
j. Respect from classmates	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

D. Academic Conduct

1. Does the student attend class regularly? Yes No Does the student arrive to class on time? Yes No

2. If the student hands in work late, what are the most likely reasons?

- Work is never late Procrastination Perfectionism
 Busy with many activities Lost the assignment Other: _____

3. Is there any reason to doubt the applicant's academic integrity? Yes No

4. Has the applicant ever been dismissed or suspended from school? Yes No

If the answer to question 3 or 4 is yes, please explain in your letter.



Recommendation Form For Math or Science Teacher

To the Student:

Please fill in the information directly below. Give this form and a stamped envelope addressed to Commonwealth School to your current math or science teacher.

Name of Applicant _____ Applying for Grade _____

Recommender's Name _____ Position _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

To the Teacher:

Commonwealth is a small school with rigorous academic standards. We know that grades and test scores alone give an incomplete picture of a prospective student, which is why we rely heavily on our interactions with the applicant and on recommendations from fellow educators.

Please complete the Applicant Description and mail it to us with a letter. In your letter, tell us how long and in what capacity you have known this student. Please comment more specifically on those qualities listed in the Applicant Description, and give your estimation of the student's personal and intellectual promise. Please mention any special interests or talents. We would like to know about weak points as well as strengths, and would be grateful for information about specific emotional or physical difficulties that you think would bear on the candidate's life at school. If you feel that, in order to give an honest appraisal of the applicant you must disclose sensitive information, we will honor a request to return your letter to you after the admissions decision has been made.

On behalf of Commonwealth's admissions committee, thank you for taking the time to think and write about this applicant.

Please submit a letter of recommendation with this form.

Applicant Description

We realize that such checklists are inexact, so we welcome any comments or qualifications you may wish to add in your letter.

A. Background Questions

In what years(s) have you taught this student? _____

In which course(s) do you teach this student currently? _____

How well do you know the student as a person? _____

What are the first three words that come to mind to describe this student? _____

Is your most recent course with this student honors level or accelerated? Yes No

B. Intellectual Ability and Achievement

	Cannot judge 0	Poor 1	Below average 2	Average 3	Above average 4	Excellent 5
a. Ability	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
b. Motivation	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
c. Creative qualities	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
d. Self-discipline	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
e. Potential for growth	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
f. Written expression	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
g. Oral expression	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
h. Problem solving ability	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

C. Character and Personality

	Cannot judge 0	Poor 1	Below average 2	Average 3	Above average 4	Excellent 5
a. Energy and initiative	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
b. Leadership	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
c. Self-confidence	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
d. Warmth of personality	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
e. Sense of humor	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
f. Concern for others	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
g. Emotional maturity	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
h. Reaction to advice and criticism	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
i. Respect from teachers	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
j. Respect from classmates	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

D. Academic Conduct

1. Does the student attend class regularly? Yes No Does the student arrive to class on time? Yes No

2. If the student hands in work late, what are the most likely reasons?

- Work is never late Procrastination Perfectionism
 Busy with many activities Lost the assignment Other: _____

3. Is there any reason to doubt the applicant's academic integrity? Yes No

4. Has the applicant ever been dismissed or suspended from school? Yes No

If the answer to question 3 or 4 is yes, please explain in your letter.



Transcript Release

Name of Applicant _____ Applying for Grade _____

To the Student:

Please fill out this form completely and submit it to your current school.

I authorize _____
School

to release to Commonwealth School the transcript, test scores, and teacher recommendations for

_____, who is now in _____th grade.
Student

Signature of applicant

Date

Signature of parent or guardian

Date

To the School:

Please send this student's transcript by email (admissions@commschool.org) or by mail to the address listed below.

Commonwealth School
Admissions Office
151 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02116