



## FAST Application Procedure

We utilize the online service of Financial Aid for School Tuition (FAST) to process financial aid applications. FAST does not decide whether financial aid will be given or how much to give; rather FAST provides a need-based financial aid analysis service which includes a recommendation of what a family should reasonably contribute toward tuition. All information from FAST is kept confidential. Results are reviewed by the Financial Aid Committee, which makes the final award determination. As a reminder, you must reapply each year.

### To start the process, please do the following:

1. Countryside will pay your FAST application fee if you contact the Business Manager, Vivian Carpenter, 217.355.1253 or [carpenter@countrysideschool.org](mailto:carpenter@countrysideschool.org) to request a voucher payment number/promo code to enter instead of your credit card in the payment section of the FAST online application. It is best to request this voucher number before you start the online application.
2. Click on the "FAST" logo in the Admissions section under Afford ([Afford - Countryside School](#)).
3. The application process is self-guided. You may navigate in and out of the program allowing you to partially complete an application, save it, and go back to it at another time. FAST provides a helpline at:  
Phone: 1-877-326-FAST  
Email: [familysupport@ismfast.com](mailto:familysupport@ismfast.com)
4. **Payment:** At the end of the session, the FAST system will ask you to enter a credit card number or a voucher number/promo code to pay the application fee. **DO NOT PAY.** Instead enter the voucher payment number given to you by Countryside's Business Manager, Vivian Carpenter (see step #1)

If you are a returning family and have additional student(s) applying, we will adjust the number of students and award (if necessary) once enrollment decisions have been made for new applicants.

**Notification:** The goal is to have an award determination and notification to families prior to the deadline for making your enrollment or re-enrollment decision.

**Returning families:** notification will be made two weeks prior to the due date (March 15) of the tuition and fees re-enrollment contract. A revised tuition and fees contract will be mailed along with the award letter.

**New admission applicants:** notification will be made at the same time as offer of admission.