Need-Based Financial Aid

Financial need is calculated by taking into account many factors including income, net worth, standard living expenses, family size, and the number of children attending tuition-charging schools (excluding graduate school). The earning potential of a non-working parent is also considered. Families with children at other independent schools or in college are expected to apply for financial aid from those schools. Aid is granted for a period of one year, based on current information; changes in a family's situation may change the amount awarded from year to year. Le Jardin Academy awards financial aid to students attending K to Grade 12.

Divorced/Separated/Never Married Parents

The school considers the income and assets of both biological parents before making an award. Each biological parent must submit all required documents and complete an application online through Clarity. If a parent has remarried, the income and assets of the stepparent will be considered, keeping in mind the obligations of the stepparent to his or her biological children.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Does applying for financial aid have any bearing on the admission decision?
A. No. Admission decisions are completely independent of financial aid.

Q. I've chosen to stop working and attend college. Will my child qualify for financial aid?
A. If you choose to reduce or eliminate your work hours, your full-time earning potential may still be considered by the Financial Aid Committee.

Q. If parents are divorced, separated or never married, do you need the same information from all parents?
A. Yes. Each biological parent is required to fill out a separate financial aid application. If either has remarried, or has established a permanent relationship with another adult, stepparents' or partners' incomes and assets should also be included.

Q. What if one parent has disclaimed responsibility for supporting the child's education?
A. It will be taken into consideration. However, the school is not bound by existing decrees or arrangements excluding a parent from financial responsibility for their child's education, so both biological parents must complete the application process. The Committee assesses on a parent's ability to pay and not willingness to pay.

Q. What if I don't know what a question on the application is asking for?
A. If you need support during the process of completing your application, there is in-app support available through the "Help" button in the bottom left of the screen, as well as email and phone support at support@clarityapp.com or 206-210-3752.

Q. What is the IRS Form 4506c?
A. This form gives Clarity permission to request a transcript of your tax return on your behalf. You will no longer need to upload your personal tax return.

Q. Will applications be processed after the February 15 due date?
A. If there are any financial aid funds remaining after all on-time applications have been processed, a late application may be considered for a reduced award.

Q. What happens if my application is incomplete?
A. It will not be processed. It will be processed once the application and all related documents have been submitted.

Q. Is there an appeals process?
A. To appeal a decision, email the Financial Aid Committee at financialaid@lejardinacademy.org. Additional documentation may be requested.

Q. Is there a cutoff in terms of income to qualify for financial aid?
A. No. Income is just one of several factors taken into consideration when calculating need. Other factors considered are assets, standard living expenses, family size and the number of children attending tuition-charging schools (excluding graduate school.)

Q. I have a valuable property. Can I still qualify for financial aid?
A. Although most financial aid is based on income, you must list all real estate you own. Home equity is a measure of financial stability and the value of your house will be taken into consideration.

Q. What are the main reasons that financial aid is denied?
A. Incomplete financial information or too much income.

Q. How does the Kamehameha Schools' Kipona Scholarship get processed with my financial aid?
A. Le Jardin Academy automatically awards additional funds, if available, to a family receiving a Kipona Scholarship.

Q. Why do I have to report nontaxable income?
A. To be fair among all applicants, any income that is available to use for tuition must be reported. Some families choose to put money into untaxed accounts, such as retirement funds.

Q. When will we be notified of awards?
A. Applicants to Le Jardin Academy receive award letters with their admission decision letters in late March for all grades. Current students receive letters by March 1. To be considered for financial assistance, all accounts with Le Jardin Academy must be current.

Q. Should our family apply for financial aid?
A. It is our hope that families first evaluate all resources, adjust spending priorities, maximize their earnings, and carefully manage assets before coming to the school for financial aid assistance. The most helpful guideline comes from personal knowledge of your household's finances.

Q. Will my child's financial aid award change from year to year? What if our household income changes?
A. Yes, financial aid is recalculated each year using current information. In general, if there is little or no change in family circumstances, a family can expect their award to remain at about the same level, bearing in mind any tuition increase. Should your need increase significantly, Le Jardin Academy will endeavor to meet that need. On the other hand, should your need decrease, your award will be adjusted accordingly. In addition, the award may be adjusted, depending on the availability of financial aid funds and the number of awards. The total number of children in tuition charging schools, divorce and job change among other situations can heavily impact awards. For best planning, you are always welcome to call our office to discuss your specific situation.

Q: When are financial aid applications due?
A: Financial aid applications and all supporting documents are due December 15 for returning families and February 15 for new families.