



CARDIGAN MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

2026–2027 Financial Aid Program

POLICIES

Selection Process

Due to the volume of requests for financial aid, we are not able to make awards to all students. Although need is the first requirement for financial aid, the final selection is based on our evaluation of a student's overall profile, including such factors as individual merit, academic achievement, and personal qualities.

Renewals

Financial aid grants are valid for one year only. To reapply for aid, a family must file a new financial aid application each year. Like all Cardigan students, financial aid recipients are expected to maintain high academic and citizenship standards. Normally, a family can expect financial aid to continue throughout a student's enrollment, but the Financial Aid Committee may reduce or refuse subsequent grants if a boy's academic effort or conduct is deficient, or if a family's ability to contribute towards tuition increases significantly.

Priorities

Consideration for monetary awards is given in the following order:

1. Applications from current aid recipients, if completed on time.
2. Initial applications from currently enrolled students, if completed on time.
3. Applications from new applicants.
4. Initial and renewal applications completed after the specified deadlines, as long as funds remain available.

The financial aid application should be completed by January 30, 2026 in order for a family to receive priority consideration. Meeting deadlines is essential. Funds are not reserved for families whose applications or tax forms are received late.

Family Contribution

We do our best to meet each family's demonstrated need. However, we do expect those who avail themselves of our assistance to share the burden by contributing as much as they can to their child's education. Thus, we encourage parents who are able to offer payments beyond amounts calculated within the financial application determination to do so.

Two-Household Families

Before making an award, the Financial Aid Committee will consider the resources of both natural parents. If the custodial parent has remarried, we also consider the resources of the step-parent, bearing in mind the obligations of the step-parent to his or her own natural children if applicable. A financial aid application should be submitted by the custodial parent and step-parent.

Confidentiality

Financial information is held in the strictest of confidence by the Financial Aid Committee and is retained on file for only a limited time to document possible IRS or other regulatory audits, after which the records are destroyed.

Financial aid recipients are not identified at Cardigan, except as necessary to qualify them for designated named grants.

External Resources

Any financial support available (beyond the parents' income and assets) should be reported on for consideration by the school. These include resources that might be expected from grandparents or other relatives, church funds, and direct scholarship grants. The committee encourages parents' disclosure of these potential sources.

PAYMENT PLANS AND LOANS

Cardigan Mountain School understands that a private junior boarding school experience is an expensive undertaking. In addition to tuition grants offered by the Financial Aid Office, Cardigan offers the following payment options:

CMS Monthly Payment Plan

The Cardigan Mountain School Monthly Payment Plan administered by Blackbaud Tuition Management is a convenient alternative to lump-sum semester payments. This option provides a simple monthly payment schedule, and is easy to apply for and renew.

CMS Tuition Refund Insurance

Tuition refund insurance is required for all families not paying tuition in full. This program insures fees (prepaid and due) in the event of separation from the school.

External Educational Loans

Cardigan makes every effort to meet a family's need. In some cases, families may choose to investigate an educational loan. Please contact the Cardigan Business Office for further information on educational loan companies.

SOURCES OF FUNDS

Cardigan's endowment fund provides income each year for grants to students. Annual grants from foundations, individuals, and other income sources also provide deserving students with the means to an exceptional education. These two sources provide our total financial aid budget.

Endowed scholarships are designated in the names of donors or honorees, or as memorials. Certain recipients of grants are appointed on a yearly basis to hold these named grants, receiving, as do all other recipients, amounts based on their family's needs. **In this program of need-based aid, no grant is specifically contingent upon or awarded on the basis of academic merit, athletic ability, or other particular skills.**

DEADLINES/FINANCIAL AID CALENDAR

January 30

Complete the financial aid application, including all information and full explanations for all items. Parents should submit a copy of their signed 2025 tax return (1040 IRS form and any pertinent schedules) and W-2s directly to the financial aid application platform, Clarity.

Cardigan strongly suggests that parents opt to receive a report of family contribution directly from Clarity for their own information and benefit.

Mid-February

Financial aid decision letters are mailed to families whose complete application for aid was received on time and in full for the February deliberations.

March–August

Financial aid decisions are made on a case-by-case basis and are subject to availability of funds.

Note: *Even if your tax return cannot be completed by January 30, the application must be received by that date to ensure preliminary consideration among the first group of awards. Final awards will not be made until the entire application procedure, including receipt of the tax forms, has been completed.*

Computations based on the application will be adjusted to reflect figures shown on the tax forms. Funds will not be reserved beyond the initial round of awards for those whose application or tax forms are received after the deadlines.

Cardigan Mountain School admits students of any race, color, creed, handicap, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, handicap, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic or other school-administered programs.

PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

The Cardigan Mountain School Financial Aid Program provides tuition assistance in a need-based manner to deserving students, while ensuring that the student body reflects a broad social and economic spectrum. The financial aid program is open to students of any race, creed, and national or ethnic origin.

Cardigan's financial aid philosophy states that each family must contribute to their child's education. It is important to note that, while individual financial aid awards vary greatly, the typical grant will not exceed 50% of tuition and fees, etc. Funds are awarded to families who demonstrate financial need, as well as to families who may require a minor subsidy to help offset the total cost of tuition.

The ability to pay full tuition is not a factor in determining admission. Financial aid decisions are made independently from admission decisions and thus do not affect a candidate's chances for enrollment at Cardigan.

A PROFILE

Dollars awarded (grants and loans)	\$3,275,000
Students receiving financial aid	66
Percent of study body receiving aid	27.5%
Average aid package	\$49,600

2025–2026 COSTS

Tuition—boarding	\$80,800
Nonrefundable deposit	\$4,000
Laundry fee	\$1,490
Tuition insurance fee	\$1,374
One-Time Technology fee	\$1,600
Tuition—day	\$46,800
Nonrefundable deposit	\$1,500
Tuition insurance fee	\$796
One-to-One Laptop (one-time fee)	\$1,600