

# Financial FAQs

Please remember to read our full "[Guide to Financial Aid](#)" before applying.



## Does Westridge offer tuition payment plans?

Westridge offers three tuition payment plans:

1. One payment due July prior to school year
2. Two payment plan due July and January
3. Monthly 10-payment plan starting in May

## Should I apply for financial aid when I apply for admission?

The financial aid process runs concurrently to the admission process, and decisions are communicated at the same time as a student's acceptance to the school.

Westridge strives to maintain stability and equity in the financial aid program by allocating financial aid thoughtfully throughout the grade levels. Because of this, if a family believes they may need financial aid at any point during their time at Westridge, they must apply for aid at the time of admission.

If financial aid is not applied for at the time of admission, it is assumed that the family is capable of covering all tuition and program costs for the duration of their time at Westridge. Westridge will not consider a financial aid application for a family if they did not apply at the time of admission unless there is a significant and unexpected change in the family's financial circumstances.

## Will my financial aid be renewed each year?

Families must re-apply for financial aid each year, and the Financial Aid Committee evaluates financial aid awards based on families' financial resources. Awarded families can expect continued support at a level that reflects their demonstrated financial need based on their Clarity application each year. The Financial Aid Committee may adjust its award accordingly should a family's financial circumstances change (e.g., job loss, employment change, or an increase in income or assets).

## How are financial aid awards determined?

The school uses consistent guidelines to evaluate financial aid requests and reviews the income, expense, asset, and liability data presented by each family. Awards are based on a family's ability to pay, which includes their ability to draw from other financial resources such as rental properties, liquid investments, and 529 plans.

## What if my other children are in tuition-charging schools?

Factors such as family size, number of children in tuition-charging schools, and cost of living expenses are all taken into consideration when determining a family's level of need. Yet, Westridge requires that a family must apply for, and most likely receive,

aid at all tuition-charging schools to be eligible for financial aid. Westridge will not subsidize with financial aid the tuition costs for siblings at other schools, including colleges and universities.

### **Will my other children applying to Westridge also receive financial aid?**

Current families applying for admission of a sibling are considered for admission and financial aid in the same ways as any applying family. If one child is already at Westridge and receiving financial aid, there is no guarantee that a second child will be admitted and funded.

In order to support socio-economic diversity across the community, Westridge limits the amount of financial aid awarded to any one family, and therefore, will only support two students from any family with very few exceptions.

### **What if I am retired or want to start a business or go to graduate school?**

The primary responsibility for financing a student's education costs lies with the family. It is the school's expectation that parents prioritize the financial responsibility of an independent school education and pay the educational costs for their children to the extent they are financially able.

Westridge will not subsidize with financial aid a parent's voluntary reduction of income (i.e., voluntarily terminating or reducing employment, separating from employment to become self-employed or start a new business, or enrolling in college or graduate school). It is assumed that a parent who has made this choice has done so without depending heavily on family resources that could otherwise be directed toward their child's tuition.

### **Grandparents are helping to pay my child's tuition. What happens if they stop?**

If a grandparent, family member, or other external support contributes to a child's tuition, it is assumed that this support will continue through the duration of the child's enrollment at Westridge. A change in this family arrangement will not be viewed as a change in a family's financial circumstances nor their eligibility for financial aid.

### **How does financial aid work for divorced or single-parent households?**

Financial aid applications must be submitted by both custodial and non-custodial parents. The Financial Aid Committee will consider the income and assets of all parents before making an award.

Please read the [Guide to Financial Aid](#) for more information about processes for two-household and single-parent families and all of the questions listed above.