

## LESSON 5:

Solebury School Admissions

# Financial Aid



We understand that talking about money can be difficult and uncomfortable, but for many families, it's an essential part of the admissions process. While some families can afford the full cost of an education like Solebury's, many others rely on financial assistance from relatives or the school. The best way to make this process work is for both families and schools to be upfront and honest about their resources. You can count on us to be transparent and guide you through every step of the financial aid process. We believe this is true for all independent schools.

In this lesson, we'll cover the key points of financial aid, though there are many details that could be discussed (hence the accompanying video).

The financial aid and admissions processes happen in parallel. To apply for admission, you will complete the SAO (Standard Application Online), another common application, or a school's own application. At Solebury, we accept only common applications to simplify the process for students and families. Importantly, Solebury, like most schools, is need-blind in admissions. This means that the Admissions Committee evaluates applicants based solely on their academic and personal qualifications, without considering their financial situation.

If you are accepted and have applied for financial aid, the Financial Aid Committee then reviews your financial aid application to determine if the school has the resources to meet your family's financial needs. Like any school, Solebury's resources are limited. While we may accept a student, we may not always be able to provide the financial aid needed. In such cases, students may be placed on a "Financial Aid Wait List." This means that, at the moment, we cannot meet your financial need. However, as other families make their decisions, funds may become available, allowing us to make offers to students on the waitlist. This process is common across many schools.



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We are careful not to offer financial aid below a family's demonstrated need, as this can put both the family and the school in an unstable position. Our goal is to ensure that students can fully engage in the Solebury experience and remain with us through graduation. This is why transparency from both schools and families is so important—together, we can ensure a solid, long-term partnership.

As mentioned, the admissions and financial aid processes run concurrently. While applying for admission, you will also fill out a financial aid application. For Solebury and most schools, this is done through Clarity, a system that helps admissions offices process financial aid applications. The Clarity application asks for details about your income, assets, debts, and expenses, and then produces an estimate of what you can reasonably afford for tuition. The Financial Aid Committee will review this information and decide on the level of aid to offer accepted students. It's important to be as transparent as possible when completing the application. Consider all potential sources of funding (like grandparents or other relatives) and let us know about any extenuating circumstances that may not be reflected in the application.

At Solebury, the financial aid application is due by **February 1st**, which aligns with most other schools. Most financial aid is need-based, but some schools also offer merit-based scholarships. Merit scholarships can be awarded based on academic achievement, athletics, arts, or even religious affiliation with the school. At Solebury, we offer a Merit Scholarship program that is more general and awarded to students who particularly stand out to the committee. **Students who apply by our standard deadlines (January 15th for day students, February 1st for boarding students) are automatically considered for merit scholarships.**

These are the main aspects of the financial aid process. If you have any further questions, don't hesitate to reach out—we're here to help.

