

JCS Financial Aid – Parent FAQ (2026–2027)

Who can apply for Financial Aid?

To apply, families must:

- Be **fully enrolled** for the 2026–2027 school year (enrollment fee paid).
- If using **Continuous Enrollment** → January tuition & fees must be paid in full by **Jan. 29, 2026**.
- All eligible students must have:
 - **K–12:** Step-Up for Students Scholarship
 - **PK4:** VPK Scholarship

➡ Families must **reapply every year**. Aid is need-based and re-evaluated annually.

How do I apply for Step-Up?

- **Returning Families:**
 - Step-Up will notify you when re-enrollment opens (**Feb. 1, 2026**) through your EMA portal.
 - Re-enroll in February to avoid losing aid eligibility.
 - You may begin your JCS Financial Aid application while waiting.
- **New Families:**
 - Visit the [Step-Up](#) website to apply for the 2026–2027 school year.
 - JCS cannot review your application until your child has been awarded Step-Up.

📄 See our [Step-Up FAQ Sheet](#) for more info.

My student has Step-Up — what do I do next?

Step-Up does **not** notify JCS directly. Once awarded, please email the following to studentbilling@jupiterchristian.org:

- Student name & grade (26/27)
- Step-Up Award # (26/27)
- Step-Up Student ID #
- County of residence
- Award amount
- Award type (**FES-EO, FES-UA, or FTC**)

⚠ Double-check: **FES-EO** and **FTC** are different awards.

Fully enrolled in JCS for 2025–2026 and awarded Step-Up, what do I do next?

- Apply for Financial Aid through [Blackbaud Financial Aid Management \(BBFAM\)](#).
 - Please answer the questions thoroughly.
- Applications open **Jan. 14, 2026**.
- JCS school code: **14912**.

What is Blackbaud Financial Aid Management (BBFAM)?

- Provides a third party, **confidential, need-based analysis** for JCS.
- Families must **complete the process** before the deadline.
- You can contact BBFAM for help:
 - 📞 800-360-8027
 - ✉ support@studentfinancialaid.blackbaud.school

✅ Watch for emails from BBFAM — they may request documents to move your application forward.

What is the deadline to apply?

- **Applications due & verified by: April 15, 2026**
- Late applications → Waitlist (aid not guaranteed).

When will I hear back?

- Applications reviewed **only after BBFAM verification**.
- Committee meets **2–3 times/month** (Feb. 16 – May 15, 2026).
- Decision emails sent through BBFAM once reviewed. Please confirm acceptance through BBFAM within two weeks of the award notification.

What if parents are divorced or separated?

- **Divorced/Separated Parents:**
 - Each parent must submit their own application.
 - Both household incomes will be reviewed.
 - Families may submit supporting documents (e.g., court orders) directly to Student Billing.

Does JCS offer merit-based scholarships?

- Those looking for a Merit Based Financial Aid Scholarship, please email **Melissa Schindler** (mschindler@jupiterchristian.org).
- Traditional Financial Aid is need based.

What is the average Financial Aid award?

- Typical awards: **5%–40% of tuition** (need-based).
- Aid covers **tuition only** (not additional fees).
- Families are responsible for remaining tuition balance.

Can I appeal the Financial Aid Committee's decision?

To appeal the Financial Aid Committee decision:

1. Write a formal letter explaining your situation to the Financial Aid Committee.
2. Include financial, medical, or other hardships.
3. Attach supporting documents.
4. Email to **Melissa Schindler** (mschindler@jupiterchristian.org).

Questions?

- **Application help (BBFAM):**
 - 800-360-8027
 - support@studentfinancialaid.blackbaud.school
- **JCS Financial Aid/Billing:**
 - Melissa Schindler, Manager of Student Financial Services and Scholarships
 - mschindler@jupiterchristian.org

 **All Financial Aid communication should be via email.**