



AFFORDABILITY POLICIES AT WALNUT HILL

Walnut Hill School for the Arts is deeply committed to enrolling a diverse student body—one that reflects a variety of interests, talents, races, ethnicities, and economic backgrounds. To uphold this commitment, Walnut Hill has established an **Affordability Program** designed to provide access to the School for all qualified students, regardless of their financial circumstances.

While Walnut Hill holds that the primary responsibility for educational costs lies with the family, we recognize that affordability grants are essential for some students to attend. The Affordability Program aims to bridge the gap between what a family can reasonably contribute and the cost of attendance, within the limits of our available budget. To assess a family's financial need and determine their Suggested Tuition, Walnut Hill partners with Clarity, a secure third-party platform. Importantly, affordability decisions are made separately from admission decisions and do not influence an applicant's likelihood of acceptance.

Walnut Hill is committed to treating all families fairly and consistently when reviewing affordability requests and allocating grants. To determine eligibility, all applicants must complete the financial application through **Clarity** annually.

All affordability grants are awarded based solely on demonstrated financial need.

THE COST OF A WALNUT HILL EDUCATION

Walnut Hill School for the Arts allocates approximately \$4,500,000 in need-based affordability grants to over 40% of the student body. The cost of a Walnut Hill education includes tuition for day students and tuition, room, and board for boarding students. Like most independent schools, Walnut Hill does not fully cover its expenses with tuition revenue. Nearly 20% of the School's operating costs are met through gifts to Walnut Hill and income from its endowment.

Walnut Hill's Affordability Program helps bridge the gap between the cost of attending and a family's ability to pay. Additional costs, such as textbooks and fees—including, but not limited to, private lesson fees, international student orientation fees, injury/illness insurance, and tuition refund insurance—are not included in the comprehensive tuition price. A full list of costs is available on our website at walnuthillarts.org.

Tuition for the upcoming academic year is set annually by the Board of Trustees in December.

PAYMENT SCHEDULES

Families may arrange to pay tuition with a 10-month installment plan. Tuition can also be paid in full at one time, or in two installments with a first payment of 60% of the balance due August 1 followed by a second payment of 40% due November 1. Specific information on the several payment plans is available from the Admission Office and is included in all enrollment packets.

TUITION REFUND ASSISTANCE

Walnut Hill makes no refunds upon withdrawal or dismissal. The tuition refund plan protects parents and the School and is required of all families who do not pay their tuition in full by August 1.

AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM POLICIES

DIVORCED/SEPARATED PARENTS

For parents who are separated or divorced, Walnut Hill requires that an Affordability Application be submitted by each parent/family. This includes financial documentation such as IRS Form 1040, W-2s, and any applicable schedules. Both parents must complete their own separate and confidential application through Clarity.

The noncustodial parent must submit their application and required financial documents directly to Clarity. If the noncustodial parent refuses to provide the necessary information, the application for affordability may not be processed.

If the custodial parent has no contact with the noncustodial parent and the noncustodial parent is not involved in the applicant's upbringing, the Director of Affordability may waive this requirement. In such cases, a letter of verification from a disinterested third party (e.g., attorney, minister, social worker) will be required.

CHILDREN LIVING WITH OTHER RELATIVES

Children living with grandparents or other relatives will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If the parents are alive and claim the child on their tax return, the parents must complete affordability forms. If other family members have legal custody, those custodians must complete affordability forms using their financial information. Proof of custody will be required.

Walnut Hill expects parents, guardians, domestic partners, and/or stepparents to play an appropriate role in financing the student's education.

FAMILIES WHO HAVE THEIR OWN BUSINESS

Parents who own a business or farm are required to provide a copy of their current business tax return. Additional documents, such as cash flow statements, balance sheets, and other relevant business information, may also be required. Depreciation on property or equipment will not be considered when calculating financial need.

For families with limited partnerships, partnership returns and K-1s must also be submitted. Walnut Hill reserves the right to request additional financial information if necessary to determine financial status.

PARENTS WHO DO NOT WORK

Walnut Hill assumes that all adult family members will contribute to the investment in a Walnut Hill education. If a parent chooses not to work and there are no preschool-aged children at home, an assumed income will be added to the family's income.

Exceptions may be made if the parent is: Caring for a disabled child, parent, or grandparent, Caring for a critically ill child, parent, or grandparent, Home-schooling other children.

Parents returning to school or changing jobs as a personal choice should understand that resulting decreases in family income cannot be offset by affordability grants from Walnut Hill.

MULTIPLE TUITION CHARGING SCHOOLS

If more than one child in a family attends a tuition-charging institution, Walnut Hill requires families to apply for aid at each institution. Walnut Hill cannot subsidize tuition for other schools. Clarity will compute the total funds available for education and divide them among the children attending tuition-charging schools. Copies of award letters from other institutions may be requested.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International families wishing to apply for affordability must complete the Clarity Application as thoroughly as possible. Additionally, families should submit translated financial documents, including income and asset information, with the current currency exchange rate applied. More details can be found in our [international student affordability guidelines](#).

RETURNING STUDENTS

Every affordability grant is awarded for one year and must be renewed annually. Each year, for each child, parents must submit the necessary forms through Clarity. The deadline for applying is December 1. While significant changes in a family's financial circumstances may impact the **Suggested Tuition**, the Affordability Committee's goal is to maintain funding at proportionate levels throughout a student's enrollment at Walnut Hill. Walnut Hill reserves the right to adjust grants if new information comes to light after enrollment.

If a family does not apply for affordability (or does not qualify) upon initial enrollment, it is unlikely they will receive a grant in subsequent years unless they

can demonstrate a significant, unforeseen change in financial circumstances. Additionally, affordability awards cannot be granted if a student is not re-enrolled by the set deadline. Grants are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

COMPUTATION OF AFFORDABILITY

Clarity provides Walnut Hill with financial analysis based on the confidential financial information submitted by families. Walnut Hill uses the Clarity reports as a starting point for the Affordability Committee, which makes all final decisions on affordability grants.

Families who fail to submit the required forms and documentation by the deadline will be considered for affordability only after those who have met the deadlines. Late requests will be reviewed on a funds-available basis.

AFFORDABILITY WAITLIST

In some cases, a family may demonstrate financial need, but due to limited resources, Walnut Hill may not be able to meet any portion of the demonstrated need. In these situations, the student's name will be placed on an affordability **waitlist**, and the possibility of an award will be reviewed at a later time.

Families who choose to enroll at Walnut Hill without an affordability grant assume the total cost of attendance for the duration of the student's enrollment. There is no guarantee that an affordability award will become available.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Financial information submitted in support of affordability applications is held in strict confidence by the Affordability Committee. All affordability awards are confidential agreements between the recipient family and Walnut Hill.

Walnut Hill does not share financial information with any other party. Families are asked to refrain from discussing affordability details with anyone other than a member of the Affordability Office.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who qualifies for affordability at Walnut Hill?

Affordability grants are offered to families based on demonstrated financial need. The Affordability Committee considers various factors, including the number and ages of children in the family, parental/guardian ages, other educational expenses, additional dependents, all sources of income and assets, as well as debts, expenses, and obligations.

What is the deadline to apply for affordability?

- Returning Students: December 1, 2026
- Early Decision New Students: December 1, 2026
- Regular Decision New Students: February 10, 2027
- Late Decision New Students: May 3, 2027

Affordability decisions cannot be made until all required documents are received, so it is crucial to begin the process early and complete it by the deadline.

How is “demonstrated need” calculated?

Walnut Hill awards affordability grants based on demonstrated financial need. Parents are expected to contribute according to their available resources, which are calculated using factors such as total income, assets, family size, number of children in tuition-charging institutions, cost of living, and other family circumstances.

Additional factors considered include child support, nursing home or assisted living support for elderly family members, natural disasters, serious illness, and job loss. For international families, financial need is determined through bank statements, monthly income, and property value documentation.

Do I have to reapply each year for affordability?

Yes. A student's financial need is recalculated annually. Families must complete the Clarity application and submit updated tax returns each year. Affordability grants are renewed annually, provided there is continued demonstrated need and the student remains in good standing. The Affordability Committee strives to maintain consistent funding levels over a student's years of enrollment unless there are significant changes in a family's financial circumstances.

Do you offer merit-based scholarships?

Walnut Hill School for the Arts does not offer merit-based affordability grants. All affordability decisions are based solely on demonstrated financial need.

Is there a payment plan available for the remaining balance of tuition and fees?

Yes. The Walnut Hill Business Office offers tuition payment plans and financing options. Families receiving affordability grants must pay a deposit of 10% of the net tuition listed on the student's enrollment contract to enroll.

Will applying for affordability impact the admission decision for my child?

No. Admission decisions are made independently of affordability decisions. Acceptance to Walnut Hill is based solely on merit and is not influenced by a family's request for affordability.

When will I be notified of the Affordability Committee's decision?

Families who complete all application requirements on time will receive affordability decisions by:

- Returning Students: February 15, 2027
- Early Decision New Students: December 21, 2026
- Regular Decision New Students: March 10, 2027
- Late Decision New Students: May 17, 2027

What are the chances of receiving affordability after the February 10, 2026 deadline?

Affordability grants are awarded on a funds-available basis. Once funds are fully allocated, it is unlikely additional funding will become available. However, from time to time, affordability funds may reopen. Families are encouraged to apply as early as possible to maximize their chances of receiving a grant.

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT SARAH EDWARDS,
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Walnut Hill does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, handicap, religion, or national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, financial assistance, and other School-administered programs.