



Lake Champlain Waldorf School

www.lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org

“A healthy social life is found only, when in the mirror of each soul the whole community finds its reflection, and when in the whole community the virtue of each one is living.”

– Rudolf Steiner

LCWS provides financial assistance to families who could otherwise not afford attending the school. Financial assistance is provided to families by reducing tuition on a per-child basis. Factors used in deciding tuition adjustments include a family’s financial position, tuition for the grade of the attending student, unusual circumstances for the family, and both the current and long-term financial position of the school.

Understand that all financial assistance given is a direct reduction in the revenues received by the school for its general funds. There is no pool of funds or endowment being dispersed. The general fund pays the expenses of the school from salaries and health care benefits to the paper used in classrooms. The committee must balance the amount of aid given with the funds required to continue providing students with the level of education promised and the faculty and staff with a living wage.

Joining a Waldorf school is joining a community. The community consists of teachers, administrators, and parents committed to a form of education that they deeply believe is the best opportunity for children to begin a life of learning, exploration, and self-development. All members of the community commit personal time and resources to fulfilling this goal.

Every community becomes wealthier through diversity. Diversity requires vigilance by all members to see that those separated simply by financial means remain welcome and that our community reflects our society as a whole.

We welcome families who need financial assistance to apply for an adjustment in tuition. Please reflect upon your financial position and all resources available to you, the financial needs of the school, and the possible needs of other families. We ask that you consider our community as a whole when applying for a reduction in tuition.

Thank you.

Lisa Bryan, Ted Panicucci, and Steve Faust
The Tuition Adjustment Committee



TUITION ADJUSTMENT INSTRUCTIONS

2015–2016

MISSION OF TUITION ADJUSTMENT

The Lake Champlain Waldorf School strives to promote a healthy socio-economic balance with financial aid policies that seek to assist in making Waldorf education affordable to all families who want it for their children.

TUITION ADJUSTMENT BASICS

The Tuition Adjustment Committee oversees the entire application and award process and makes all award decisions. Any family can apply for tuition adjustment, which is awarded based on need. The Committee is authorized to consider unusual circumstances, to modify financial need rankings based on additional information obtained through interviews and other processes, and to reconsider awards that have been made.

Tuition adjustment decisions are based on the committee's assessment of applicants' needs and the budgeted funds available for tuition adjustment. The committee must stay within the budget limit to ensure the financial well being of the school. Adjustments cannot cover the entire tuition obligation. Unfortunately, the demand for financial aid always exceeds the available resources.

Financial aid applications will only be considered if the applicant's LCWS accounts, including tuition, fees, late charges, etc., are fully paid and current, or if the applicant has a payment plan approved by the Finance Committee.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

By February 1 of each year, all families applying for adjustment must complete and submit a School and Student Service for Financial Aid (SSS) Parents' Financial Statement form. In addition, business and/or farm owners must also complete the SSS Business/Farm Statement and submit it online or to the school.

Applicants must also submit, online or to the school, a copy of the latest Federal Income Tax Return as part of the SSS application. All financial information must be provided to SSS when applying for adjustment.

New this year, we ask applicants to answer the supplemental questionnaire found on the last page of these instructions.

Our school's primary source for evaluating a family's need for adjustment is the written analysis of the family's financial circumstances from SSS. SSS does not determine the amount of adjustment granted by our school; the SSS reports are used to ensure that all applications are presented uniformly and evaluated fairly, objectively, and confidentially. The applicant is also encouraged to submit a letter to the school if there are any exceptional financial circumstances not reflected in the SSS form.

Adjustments are awarded on an annual basis and the award only applies to the academic year for which the award is sought (which would be the current or upcoming year). Therefore, a new School and Student Service for Financial Aid (SSS) application must be submitted each year.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The Lake Champlain Waldorf School admits students of any race, color, sex, national, or ethnic origin, or sexual preference to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities accorded and made available to students of the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national and ethnic origin, gender expression, or identity, sexual orientation, or physical ability in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, financial aid, or other school programs.

Financial Aid Application Timeline/Deadlines

February 1, 2015	<p>Last day to submit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents' Financial Statement online with the \$42 fee at: sss.nais.org.• A copy of your most recent Federal Tax Return online at sss.nais.org or to LCWS. <p>Families who own a business or farm must also submit online or to LCWS the SSS Business/Farm Statement, which is available at sss.nais.org.</p> <p>* New this year, applicants are to answer supplemental questionnaire.</p> <p>Deadline for submission of optional letters describing exceptional circumstances. These letters should be addressed to the Tuition Adjustment Committee and emailed to financialaid@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org or mailed or hand delivered to the LCWS grade school Front Office.</p>
Beginning February 9, 2015	<p>Tuition Adjustment Committee will analyze and evaluate the SSS reports. You may be asked to provide further information during the evaluation period.</p>
No later than March 16, 2015	<p>Adjustments are granted and families are notified by email or letter.</p>
April 1, 2015	<p>Enrollment contracts must be signed and returned to the school. Adjustments for families who have not returned their signed contracts by April 1 will be revoked.</p>

Returning families and new families accepted by February 1, 2015, please note:

Late or incomplete applications will be considered only on a case-by-case basis when there are extraordinary circumstances. Late or incomplete applications may result in no tuition adjustment.

Other things you need to know:

- Our school ID number to be used on the SSS online form is **4447**. All financially responsible parents and guardians (custodial and non-custodial) must complete and submit the Parents' Financial Statement. The deadlines are the same for all parties.
- The school will consider the assets, including those that are not immediately liquid, of all parents and/or legal guardians.
- All information submitted to the Tuition Adjustment Committee is held in strict confidence and only the Committee reviews all the material.
- If additional information is needed, the Tuition Adjustment Committee may request a meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact the Tuition Adjustment Committee by email at: financialaid@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org



Tuition Adjustment Supplemental Questionnaire

It is our goal to provide financial support to those families in need in an objective, equitable and fair manner. In addition, we strive to provide assistance to as many families as require assistance in order to attend LCWS. Due to very limited resources we need to make difficult choices.

From experience we have learned that this is no simple proposition. In some cases it is difficult to get an accurate and complete portrait of a family's financial position through just the SSS forms, financial documents, and letters of request. The following questionnaire is designed to address this issue and to help us gain a clearer picture of every family's needs.

All information provided on this form will be held in the strict confidence of the committee members, the Admissions Director and the Finance Director.

Email your responses to: financialaid@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org or mail or drop off at Turtle Lane campus:

Lake Champlain Waldorf School, Attn: Tuition Committee, 359 Turtle Lane, Shelburne VT 05482

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Other than the student's parent's income, are there other sources of funds available that can be accessed and contributed towards tuition? Examples: Trust funds, grandparents or other relatives willing to assist, scholarships, other. **If so, what is the maximum contribution available from each source. Are there any restrictions or limitations to the funds?** For example: a time constraint, a one-time gift, good until new employment.

2. If your family configuration is complicated due to divorce or for other reasons, can you provide us with information that will help us determine who is capable and willing to contribute towards tuition and who is not. Examples: a divorcee who does not support Waldorf education; separated parents where each is to contribute one-half of the tuition but one requires assistance and the other does not; a single parent and grandparents under one household, etc. In the case of divorced parents with joint financial obligations to tuition, each parent's financial position will be considered separately based on the percentage of tuition they are responsible for. Both parents must fill out individual SSS forms. Only those who fill out SSS forms will be considered for aid. When appropriate a separate contract will be written for each parent, incorporating their portion of the tuition.

3. How do you foresee your financial situation changing over the next year or two and over the duration of your child's time at LCWS?

Depending upon the complexity of your financial situation we may need to contact you for additional information and/or require a personal interview.

Thank you for your assistance,
Lisa Bryan, Ted Panicucci and Steve Faust, Tuition Adjustment Committee