



Financial Aid

The Kirby financial aid program supports the belief that maintaining an economically diverse student body is important to our school. Financial aid is provided in the form of a tuition reduction (and in the case of new students, the enrollment fee may be waived).

Guidelines

Each year the Board of Trustees establishes tuition, the overall budget for the school, and a budget for financial aid. The Financial Aid Committee evaluates applications and makes awards to as many qualified families as possible.

- Awards are made to students in good standing based upon financial need. Returning students and siblings are given priority consideration.
- To ensure objectivity, Kirby uses an outside service, Financial Aid for School Tuition (FAST) to evaluate applications. Using the FAST assessment and the other materials submitted, the Financial Aid Committee determines financial aid awards for individual families. Families are encouraged to apply in January, but should submit their application to FAST no later than **February 15, 2019**.
- New student families should complete an Admissions Application before submitting a Financial Aid Application; Financial Aid Applications are considered *only after* a new student has been accepted.
- The Admissions Application Deadline for students applying for Financial Aid is **February 1, 2019**.
- All families receiving financial aid must re-apply each year.
- In separated or divorced families, both parents and/or guardians must submit applications.

Application Steps

- Returning and new families submit the online application directly to FAST. The application is available starting **December 1, 2018**. To apply online, go to <https://www.ismfast.com/FastPage.php?id=5433c085bd60f427d04ce1af10d8751b>. If you have questions about the electronic submission process, **please review the information on the FAST website or call FAST directly at 877-326-FAST (877-326-3278)**.
- Families must mail a copy of both parents' or guardians' 2018 federal tax return(s) and all related schedules to FAST to complete the application.
- Families should also submit a cover letter **by February 15th, 2019** to the Kirby Financial Aid Committee outlining the reasons for applying and/or any unusual family or financial circumstances. This is an opportunity to help the committee understand more about each family's individual situation and need. Please send this letter to: Financial Aid Committee, c/o Laura Lucas, 425 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Application Deadline

- Families may submit the FAST financial aid applications starting December 1, 2018. The deadline for submitting the Financial Aid Application to FAST and submitting the cover letter to Kirby is **February 15, 2019**. Completed 2018 tax returns are required. We understand that the February 15 deadline may be challenging. However, in order to make awards in late March, this deadline is important. Although late applications are accepted, funds may no longer be available.

Questions regarding the Kirby portion of the financial aid process may be directed to:

Laura Lucas, Director of Facilities and Events

(831) 423-0658 x 302

llucas@kirby.org