

# Applying for financial aid at our school for the 2026-2027 academic year

Hello and welcome to the 2025-2026 Financial Aid season! We partner with School and Student Services (SSS) in our financial aid process. You will use and complete the SSS financial aid application (also referred to as the Parents' Financial Statement or PFS) within the SSS Family Portal to apply for financial aid at our school.

By submitting an SSS application, you're granting SSS permission to analyze your financial information. Using their unique methodology, they estimate the amount you can contribute to school expenses and forward that estimate to the appropriate schools. It's one form, for one fee, for any number of applicant children, for any number of schools.

# Find the SSS application online via the SSS Family Portal:

https://sssandtadsfa.my.site.com/familyportal

# How to complete the SSS Financial Aid Application

Beginning **September 2, 2025**, visit the SSS Family Portal at

https://sssandtadsfa.my.site.com/familyportal

- Create your Family Portal account with your email address and a password. If you applied for financial aid last year, log into the Family Portal as a Returning Family using the same email address and password.
- Complete an application for the 2026-2027
   Academic Year. You can log out of the portal at any time and return later to finish it.
- After you have updated your household and selected your school you will move to the tax portion of the application. At this point it is recommended to "Easy Apply." This will pull your taxes directly from IRS. Follow the <u>Family Easy Apply Guide</u> for details
- Once all sections of your application are completed and you have clicked the "Submit Application" button, your application cannot be withdrawn from the SSS system. The \$60 fee is nonrefundable.

### **Next steps**

After you pay for and submit your application, you will need to verify if we require additional documentation you will need to upload these required documents by their deadlines as part of your application process.

We will communicate our financial aid decision to you directly. To make our decision, we use the information from the SSS application as a starting point, and we also consider our school policies, practices, and available budget.

### Plan ahead and know your deadlines

The SSS application is a comprehensive application that will take some time to complete. Give yourself the time you need by not waiting until the deadline approaches. It's important to note the difference between the deadlines for admission and financial aid applications.

If you do not have your 2025 tax return, complete the application using your most recent tax return. When the requested tax forms arrive, such as W2s or 1040s, log back in and upload them (if required) by the deadline. We also recommend that you review the wide range of materials that SSS has put together to help families with their financial aid process. They are found at <a href="http://www.solutionsbysss.com/">http://www.solutionsbysss.com/</a>.

# Top 10 Tips for completing your financial aid application

# Complete only one application per household

You can apply for aid to any number of schools for any number of children using just one application for the same flat fee. Know your deadlines for submission.

### 2. Use your legal name

Take sure your name on your SSS application appears exactly the way your name appears on your tax documents.

### 3. Enter whole numbers

When entering numbers, do not enter decimals or cents — simply round to the nearest whole number. All monetary values must be in US dollars.

### 4. Differentiate applicants from dependents

Questions about "student applicants" refer to your children who are applying for financial aid through SSS. Questions about "other dependents" refer to the children (or adults) for whom you provide support but ARE NOT applying for financial aid nor listed as Parent/Guardian A or Parent/Guardian B.

## 5. Separate salary from profit

If you are a business or farm owner, you will be asked about your salary in the Family Income section. Enter only the amount you draw as salary as reported on your W2. You will provide information about profit/loss elsewhere in the application.

### 6. Estimate your taxes

We realize most tax forms are not available until late January. If you don't have your current year's taxes available, please estimate your answers based on your prior year's tax return.

### 7. Use Easy Apply with IRS Consent

Allow SSS to pull in your tax data and transcripts to eliminate time uploading documents and completing some sections of the application.

### 8. Tell your story

Offer explanations when requested, so your story or situation is clear and understandable to those reviewing your application.

### 9. Calculate debt and unusual expenses

When asked to report your credit card debt, enter your total outstanding balances and use the Notes section to specify the types of purchases you used these cards for. When asked to total your "unusual expenses," you'll find a list of the types of expenses you should and should not include.

### 10. Be honest

Take time to carefully consider how much you think you can pay towards tuition on your own. Make a budget of income and expenses to see how much you can include for school costs.

# Need help with your application or required documents?

Contact SSS Family Support at (800) 344-8328 or <a href="mailto:sssandtadsfa@venturedsolutions.com">sssandtadsfa@venturedsolutions.com</a>.