

## **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:**

A Vermont Commons School education represents a significant financial investment in your child's future. Vermont Commons' need based-tuition assistance program is designed to help make a VCS education accessible to qualified students who may not otherwise afford to attend. All families are eligible to apply. All financial data and proceedings are confidential. Vermont Commons School allocates up to 16.5% of the operating budget for financial aid, which enables the school to provide financial assistance to approximately 30% of the student body. Families receiving financial assistance are expected to contribute a minimum of 20% of Vermont Commons School annual tuition. Vermont Commons School makes need-blind admissions decisions, independently of and in advance of financial assistance decisions. Vermont Commons School determines a family's need for financial assistance based on the School and Student Services (SSS) computation, applicable tax returns, and the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) and the SSS Financial guiding principles, several of which are detailed below.

### **Financial Assistance Deadlines**

- February 20th Financial Assistance Application Deadline for Current VCS Families
- February 20th Financial Assistance Application Deadline for Vermont Commons School Applicants

### **PAYMENT PLANS:**

Annual, Semi-Annual and Monthly tuition payment plans are available. Application and re-enrollment forms describing the various plan options and due dates will be sent to all families. Please direct billing questions to Linda Bursell, Business Manager, at 865-8084 extension 140, or [lbursell@vermontcommons.org](mailto:lbursell@vermontcommons.org).

**DIVIDED FAMILIES:** The Financial Aid application process requires reporting of income and assets of both natural parents. Additionally, if natural parents have remarried, the reporting of income and assets of step-parents or other unmarried adult partners in the household is also required.

**TUITION-CHARGING SCHOOLS:** When determining a family's estimated contribution, SSS takes into consideration the total number of children in tuition-charging schools, including other college, parochial, and independent school programs. While expenses incurred from other schools may be more or less than Vermont Commons School tuition, your family's overall estimated contribution to be allocated to Vermont Commons is divided equally between receiving institutions. Vermont Commons does not subsidize tuition associated with other schools. Vermont Commons reserves the right to adjust awards based on changes to the number of children in tuition-charging schools.

**ADMISSION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** Financial assistance is awarded to students who have successfully completed the application process and have been admitted to Vermont Commons School. Limited funding, however, may prevent an admitted student from enrolling at Vermont Commons School.

**UNDERSTANDING OUR POLICIES:** Applicants completing the admission and financial assistance processes by February 20th will receive the greatest consideration for funding. Returning families must complete their financial assistance applications by February 20th.

**NON-WORKING PARENT(S):** Recognizing that the primary responsibility for financing a student's education costs rests with the family, the Financial Assistance Committee will impute a full-time minimum wage-equivalent salary for a non-working parent when there are no elementary school-age children or others to care for in the home and/or no medical or disability issues that prevent the parent from seeking employment.

**OPEN COMMUNICATION:** The Financial Assistance Committee strives to be thoughtful and fair in its allocation of financial aid. We expect that applicants for aid will be honest and forthcoming when supplying data to the school. The Financial Assistance Committee may find it necessary to request additional information while reviewing individual applications for financial assistance. Vermont Commons welcomes questions and comments during the financial assistance application process.

For more information about understanding Financial Aid in Private schools, please download the free E-book sponsored by SSS.

[SSS Financial Aid E-Book](#)