



ISB Tuition Assistance FAQ's

Q. What is Tuition Assistance? Is it a scholarship?

A. ISB's Tuition Assistance program is a school-funded, need-based program, reflecting the school's core values of diversity and equity. Tuition Assistance is not a government or merit scholarship, nor is it based on a child's language background or nationality. Families must demonstrate financial need in order to qualify and the award they receive is an outright grant from the school. ISB strives to offer awards that will make it possible for families to enroll at ISB, but we also believe that the primary responsibility for paying for tuition rests with the parents. ISB's Tuition Assistance program is a supplement to family contributions towards a child's tuition and aims to bridge the gap between what a family is able to afford towards tuition and the full cost of annual fees.

Q. What is the maximum award a family can receive?

A. Tuition assistance packages may range from 10% to 90% of tuition fees, reflecting the broad socioeconomic range in our school. Close to 30% of current families receive some level of tuition assistance. ISB does not grant 100% awards; we encourage the collective efforts of all families to contribute to the financial health of the school in accordance with their means.

Q. Can anyone apply for Tuition Assistance?

A. Yes, families are eligible to apply regardless of grade level, language background, or language track. However, priority is given to the Kindergarten through 8th grade program. We therefore have very limited funding for Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 students, with priority going to qualifying sibling applicants. Tuition assistance packages are offered to as many qualifying families as possible, but ISB does not have the means to extend assistance to all families who apply and qualify.

Q. If I enroll at ISB without Tuition Assistance, can I apply the following year?

A. We strongly recommend that families embarking on the admissions process think carefully about how independent school tuition will fit into their family budget. We recommend that if a family feels they might need assistance, they apply for it at the time of the initial application. ISB, like other independent schools, relies on tuition in order to operate the school and fix its yearly operating budget. That said, we understand that family financial circumstances may change over time. Enrolled



families are given the opportunity to apply for tuition assistance each year to ensure that the awards given match each family's circumstances.

Q. How does ISB determine Tuition Assistance awards?

A. ISB uses SSS (School and Student Services) to process and analyze all tuition assistance applications. SSS takes many factors into account when estimating a family's financial contribution towards tuition. Some things taken into consideration include: family income, assets, real estate equity, mortgage or rental payments, employer allowances, number of children in the family. This helps SSS determine what a family's discretionary income looks like and what portion of that income can reasonably be prioritized towards tuition payment. The more discretionary income a family has, the higher the expected contribution towards tuition.

Q. How do I apply for Tuition Assistance?

A. Families must indicate on their admissions application that they wish to apply for Tuition Assistance. ISB uses the School and Student Services (SSS) module to process those applications. You can access the application at this link:

<https://www.solutionsbysss.com/parents/>. Follow the prompt to "Login to complete or update your PFS" (Parent Financial Statement). ISB's code is 4757. Please upload copies of last year's tax returns and W2 statements (if applicable) directly to SSS.

Q. If I apply for Tuition Assistance, can I expect to receive an award?

A. Supporting socio-economic diversity is a strong part of ISB's mission and close to 30% of families in the community receive some form of assistance. However, the requests for tuition assistance far exceed our allocated budget, which needs to cover both new requests for assistance as well as renewal for current ISB families receiving assistance. Tuition assistance packages are offered to as many qualifying families as possible, but ISB does not have the means to extend assistance to all families who apply and qualify.

Q. If I receive an award this year, can I expect to receive it in the following years?

A. When ISB determines its Tuition Assistance awards, the school makes every effort to project for the long-term so that the award can span the child's enrollment at the school. This is why we ask families to reapply every year: we know that families' financial situations can fluctuate and we want to respond to those changes accordingly by adjusting the tuition assistance award year by year.



Q. How does ISB finance its Tuition Assistance program? Does ISB receive external money to cover Tuition Assistance?

A. ISB does not receive any funding from external entities for its tuition assistance program; rather, this is a priority for ISB's school culture and is funded entirely through the school's own operating budget and fundraising within the ISB community.

Q. Do I earn too much to be considered for Tuition Assistance?

A. Families with a range of incomes may qualify for Tuition Assistance depending on their situation. All families who choose tuition-charging schools make tuition payments a priority in their family budget.

Q. When do we find out the results of the Tuition Assistance application?

A. Applicants who are offered admission to ISB and to whom ISB is able to offer a tuition assistance package are notified of both when decision letters are sent in February. If you are applying off-cycle, we recommend that you check with the Admissions Office before applying for tuition assistance, as funds may be limited beyond the regular admissions season.

Q. Does applying for Tuition Assistance influence the admissions decision?

A. Admissions decisions are made first. Once ISB has determined its pool of candidates, the Tuition Assistance Committee determines possible awards. The two processes are distinct from each other.

Q. What does ISB's tuition cover? Are there other school fees?

A. ISB has an inclusive fee that covers all school materials and books, as well as school trips. Families receiving Tuition Assistance will receive the same percentage of assistance for additional fee-charging programs such as school lunch and the After School Care program.

Q. Does ISB offer payment plans?

A. Yes, families can choose between three different payment plans after they pay the initial non-refundable enrollment deposit at the time of their acceptance. The enrollment deposit is credited towards tuition. If a family receives tuition assistance,



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the deposit will be adjusted to reflect the percentage of assistance they receive. The payment plan options are listed below:

One payment plan: Tuition is paid in full by July 1.

Two payment plan: Tuition is paid in two equal installments – 50% due by July 1 and 50% due by October 1.

10 month payment plan: Tuition payments are spread over ten months. Payment is due each month starting July 1 through April 1. There is an additional \$100 administrative fee associated with this plan.

Q. Can international families apply for Tuition Assistance?

A. Yes, international families can apply and must fill out the Parent Financial Statement to the best of their ability. In lieu of tax returns, ISB will send the family an additional form to fill out.

Q. What is the French Bourse?

A. If your child is a French citizen, you may apply for a need-based Bourse from the French government. Families who are eligible should indicate their intention to apply for the Bourse on their child's admissions application (Pre-K 3 to 5th Grade applicants only). The Bourse is managed through the French Consulate and takes into account a family's financial profile and assets to determine whether they qualify for government aid; it is not a subsidy program for families wishing to attend accredited French schools.

Families applying for the Bourse should contact the French Consulate. More information about the program and required documents can be found here: <https://newyork.consulfrance.org/foire-aux-questions-bourses-scolaires>.