

FYI: Some Factors Considered by the Financial Aid Committee

RCS is a small private school that has a very limited amount of financial aid. Aid is largely provided by the generosity of RCS families, who contribute to the Rainbow Community School Annual Campaign. The financial aid decision is very complex. We consider a multitude of factors, some of which are unique to particular families.

Below are examples of some factors considered by the Financial Aid Committee:

Family Resources: Assets and discretionary spending

Diversity: One of the purposes of financial aid is to increase the economic diversity and other forms of diversity on campus. We are an affirmative action school.

Class: Size and available spots, including class balance factors. These factors include gender (number of boys and girls in each class), percent of special needs students in each classroom, and racial balance.

Non-Working Parent: If a parent makes the decision not to work after the youngest child enters Kindergarten, RCS will calculate a potential income for the non-working parent, and calculate that into the possible tuition contribution the family can make.

Divorced and Separated Parents: In the case of a divorce or separation, the school requires both parents to file an application for financial aid. We believe it is unfair for RCS to subsidize a child's education if one of the parents is capable, but unwilling, to contribute to his/her child's tuition. Contact the business office for guidance in handling unusual circumstances.

Payment History: The Tuition and Fees section of the RCS Parent Handbook states that all parents must pay any outstanding balance before their child can be enrolled for the upcoming school year. Current financial aid recipients must also have a zero balance to receive an award for their child's enrollment for the next year. The Financial Aid Committee also takes into consideration the payment history of current financial aid recipients.