



## Financial Assistance Policy

An important aspect of Cornerstone Christian Montessori's community outreach effort is our desire to make Christ-centered Montessori education accessible to all families, regardless of their ability to pay. Cornerstone Christian Montessori seeks to support its families and provide a loving learning environment for all children who are part of our school community. Each year, through its budgeting process, the Cornerstone Christian Montessori Board of Directors determines an amount of money to be allocated for financial assistance. The fundraising efforts of our volunteers throughout the school community are our first source for these funds. Grantors, school families, alumni, and friends of the school provide additional support through their direct donations.

The amount of financial assistance offered to each family is determined by our income guidelines (below), by the amount of money available, and by the number of applications in a given school year. Additional factors taken into account include, but are not limited to: *family size; exceptional family stress (death, divorce, illness, loss of job); or physical, emotional, or educational special needs of a child.* Families may include a written statement of any personal circumstances they feel deserve additional consideration.

- All required enrollment forms and \*registration fee (\$200) must be turned in with the financial aid application (FAST) to qualify. FAST requires a small nonrefundable fee for application processing.
- **Each family must pay some tuition**, according to its means.
- Families are notified of their awards at the time of placement.
- Awards for new families and for families turning in applications after the deadline are subject to the limitation of the remaining funds available.
- Documentation to verify income, consisting of federal income **tax return** (1040/1040A/1040EZ, other schedules: Example Schedule C, etc.), W2 or 1099's must be included with the FAST application. FAST will contact you on what additional information you may need.
- Families unable to provide a tax return are asked to contact FAST about alternative income documentation.
- Decisions are made by the Financial Aid Committee through anonymous review (i.e. no identifying information).
- All requests for assistance and information provided are **strictly confidential** and will not be shared.
- Families receiving assistance are required to contribute volunteer hours to the school as part of their enrollment agreement. Details of this requirement will be outlined in the financial aid agreement to be signed by the family.

*\*Registration fee is refundable only if the financial aid offer is not accepted by the applicant family.*