Affording
The Churchill School
Affording The Churchill School and Center

The Churchill School and Center builds community on the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion. To help realize Churchill's vision of education available for all, the school maintains a financial aid program. At Churchill, “need” is defined as the difference between the family's resources and the child's tuition expenses. To evaluate need, Churchill uses formulas created by SmartAid. Parents applying for financial aid must complete the SmartAid Application.

Admissions decisions are made separately from financial aid decisions. Any student who applies to Churchill may apply for financial assistance. The Churchill School and Center imposes no income ceiling or minimum for families applying for financial aid.

If a student is granted a financial award and enrolls in Churchill, Churchill expects the student and the student's family to become active and engaged members of the OneChurchill community thereby enriching the fabric of The Churchill School and Center. Churchill expects that families will adhere to all school policies and other expectations as outlined in the Family Handbook.

For consideration in the first round of financial aid decisions, families should complete their financial aid application by January 6, 2021. Because funds are limited, it is crucial that families meet all financial aid deadlines.

The Churchill School and Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical challenge, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, or any other characteristic in the allocation of financial aid. Churchill is committed to building and maintaining a diverse community.
Financial Aid FAQs

Who can apply for financial aid?

Funds are available for families seeking initial admission/enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year and privately enrolled families whose students began at Churchill in the 2020-2021 school year. The Churchill School and Center imposes no income ceiling or minimum for families applying for financial aid.

Should I apply for financial aid?

If you believe your financial resources are not sufficient to meet the cost of a Churchill School education, you are strongly encouraged to apply for financial aid. SmartAid provides a common base by which each family's needs can be measured fairly and equitably.

Does applying for financial aid influence the admission decision?

No. The Churchill School does not use financial need as a consideration in determining a student's eligibility for admission. The admissions and financial aid processes are separate and distinct. No decisions regarding financial aid are made until the child is accepted.

Who makes decisions about financial aid? Will this information remain confidential?

Official financial aid grants or amended enrollment contracts (e.g., Connors Contract) are determined by demonstrated financial need and awarded by the Financial Aid Committee. All names of students receiving financial aid and all financial aid amounts remain confidential.
Who provides the funds for financial aid?

The Churchill School and Center funds all financial aid grants. SmartAid does not make financial aid grants, nor does it provide the money for financial aid grants.

How do I apply for financial aid?

The Churchill School and Center requires families to complete a financial aid application through the SmartAid website. As part of this application, The Churchill School and Center requires that a copy of the prior two years’ 1040 and W2 tax forms and supporting tax schedules (including K-1s if filed) be submitted. In addition, The Churchill School and Center may require recent pay stubs as well as documentation of other sources of income such as, but not limited to, social security payments, food stamps, public assistance, unemployment, child support, worker’s compensation, etc. 2020 year-end tax forms due April 15, 2021, will also be required when filed. For details, please refer to our Financial Aid Checklist & Timeline.

How soon should I apply for financial aid?

Because requests for financial aid may exceed the funds available, it is important to apply as early as possible. Funds are allocated first to financial aid applicants who meet the deadlines outlined in the Financial Aid Timeline. Financial aid grants will be presented at the time enrollment offers are extended.

Applications for financial aid may be completed past the deadline of January 6, 2021, but will not be considered in the first round. While we strive to make a Churchill School education available to all qualified students, our financial aid funds are limited. Applicants who apply after the above deadline and are accepted may be placed in a Financial Aid Wait Pool. If funds remain available, Financial Aid Wait Pool applicants will be reviewed on a rolling basis by the Financial Aid Committee for a possible grant or amended enrollment contract.

What is the deadline for applying for financial aid?

Parents should submit their financial aid application to SmartAid by January 6, 2021. The copies of the 2020 tax returns (and all schedules) also should be sent directly to SmartAid by April 15. The Financial Aid Committee will notify families of
accepted students of grants in February once tuition rates are finalized by the Board of Trustees. Please refer to the Financial Aid Checklist & Timeline for more information.

**How is financial need determined?**

Financial need is defined as the difference between the cost to attend The Churchill School and Center and a family's ability to pay. The results of the Financial Aid Assessment are sent by SmartAid to The Churchill School and Center and to the family. It provides the school with a general recommendation regarding a family's ability to pay for education. Major factors in determining financial need include, but are not limited to, home equity, supplemental income, payments to pension and retirement plans, discretionary spending, and lifestyle choices.

Regardless of marital status, The Churchill School and Center requires both parents to submit separate Financial Aid Applications, tax information, and any other supporting documents that illustrate their financial situation. In addition, domestic partners, step-parents and non-custodial parents must also provide the same information. Consideration of the non-custodial parent will be based upon the belief that a parent’s contribution to education is a reflection of the ability to pay, not the willingness to pay. If there are unusual circumstances regarding the family situation or financial standing, you are welcome to contact the Financial Aid Committee for a personal conversation.

**Do I have to apply for financial aid each year?**

Yes. Families must apply for financial aid annually. In order to be eligible for financial aid, you must meet financial aid criteria established by The Churchill School and Center and by SmartAid. A continued need must be demonstrated each year. While it is the goal of the Financial Aid Committee to maintain funding consistently from year to year, the decisions is always subject to current documented need and established criteria.

**Is there a repayment obligation when a family receives financial aid from The Churchill School and Center?**

There is no obligation to repay a financial aid grant, with limited exceptions.
If a family reaches an agreement with the Department of Education in which the amount reimbursed to the family is larger than the family's Net Tuition (Private Tuition minus Financial Aid Grants), the family must remit the difference to The Churchill School and Center.

**Example:** Private Tuition rate = $60,000  
Financial Aid Grant = $10,000  
Net Tuition = $50,000  
Reimbursement Received = $58,000  
Remittance to Churchill = $8,000

Churchill expects that families will pay their Net Tuition in full no later than June 30th of each academic year. Financial Aid Grants for successive years will be rescinded in the event that a family's financial obligation is not met.

**Can I receive financial aid while pursuing funding from the Department of Education?**

A family can receive financial aid while simultaneously pursuing funding as long as there is no existing agreement between the family and the Department of Education which provides for funding and/or placement at Churchill.

If a family chooses to pursue reimbursement of tuition through the Department of Education, financial aid will generally be given through the form of an amended enrollment contract. In this arrangement, the enrollment contract will reflect an amount of upfront tuition owed by the family determined by the Financial Aid Committee and the remainder of the full tuition rate as a balance that will be accepted as direct payment from the DOE at the conclusion of the student's case. Should the family not be successful in their pursuit of reimbursement and/or direct payment, the enrollment contract will be voided and an amended payment schedule may be considered at the sole discretion of the Financial Aid Committee.

Families pursuing funding must provide written consent to the Churchill School to speak with their counsel, on an ongoing basis, for status updates.

**Can I appeal a financial aid decision?**

Families who are denied financial aid or have questions about their grant or contract may contact the Financial Aid Committee in writing. *Stating details that explain the concerns, the letter must be specific and contain new information that was not in the original financial aid application.* The new information must be quantified.
appeals that do not include new information will not be considered. Only one appeal is allowed. Appeals must be sent in writing to the Enrollment Management Office no later than May 1. Families who do not meet this deadline waive their right to appeal. All Financial Aid Committee decisions regarding appeals are final. All communication is between the Financial Aid Committee and the applicant’s family, except at the request and sole discretion of the Financial Aid Committee.
Financial Aid Checklist

- Admissions Application
- Financial Aid Application with SmartAid
- IRS Federal 1040, Schedules, including K-1s (if applicable) for 2018 (new applicants)*
- IRS Federal 1040, Schedules, including K-1s (if applicable) for 2019 (new applicants)*
- IRS Federal 1040, Schedules, including K-1s (if applicable) for 2020 (by April 15)*
- W-2 Forms (unless self-employed)*
- Copy of executed 2019-2020 NYC DOE Stipulation of Settlement (if applicable)
- Copy of draft/executed 2020-2021 NYC DOE Stipulation of Settlement (if applicable)

* Separated, divorced parents, domestic partners, step-parents and non-custodial parents must submit these items.
Financial Aid Timeline

FALL

Submit an Admissions Application before applying for financial aid. Remember to check the box on the admissions application to indicate you are applying for financial aid.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

Submit a Financial Aid Application by January 6, 2021, through SmartAid, accessible at http://www.smartaidforparents.com/. This application will include your IRS tax forms, IRS schedules, and W-2 forms. If you have not completed your current year taxes, please make sure to submit last year’s taxes. To be considered in the first round of financial aid awards, this application must be completed by January 6, 2021. Applications for Financial Aid may be completed past this deadline, but will not be considered in the first round.

FEBRUARY

Families whose students have been accepted will receive their finalized Enrollment Agreement and Financial Aid Award once tuition has been set by the Board of Trustees. Those families who receive a preliminary Enrollment Agreement and Financial Aid Award in December or January will have until February 18, 2021, to sign the contract. Families who receive their Enrollment Agreement and Financial Aid Award after February 4, 2021, will have ten (10) business days to sign the contract.

MARCH-APRIL

Submit IRS 2020 tax forms, IRS schedules, and W-2 forms.

The Churchill School and Center makes every effort to help all eligible applicants. All grants are funded by Churchill. Grants are made only to students who qualify for aid on the basis of financial need. The Churchill School and Center does not give athletic, arts, or academic scholarships. The Churchill School and Center adheres to the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) Principles of Good Practice for Financial Aid.
We are committed to making a Churchill education affordable for all qualified students.

Federal law provides a guarantee to students and their families under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). The majority of families at Churchill choose to exercise this right to a FAPE by bringing a legal case against the Department of Education (DOE).

The Churchill School aims to support families in this pursuit through its financial aid program and through a myriad of other supports. For families seeking to pursue either Carter or Connors funding, The Churchill School forms strong working partnerships with your attorneys to build the strongest possible case for reimbursement and/or direct payment of tuition. The Financial Aid Committee will review and consider requests for Connors funding once the family has completed a financial aid application.

To support you in this endeavor, The Churchill School provides a list of advocates and attorneys known to us as having represented families in the pursuit of the educational rights of their student.
Advocates & Attorneys

Advocates

Advocates for Children of New York, Inc.
151 West 30th Street, 5th Floor
New York, New York 10001
(212) 947-9779

Partnership for Children's Rights
271 Madison Avenue, 17th Floor
New York, New York 10016
(212) 683-7999

Attorneys

Ratcliff Law, PLLC
300 Park Avenue, Fl2
New York, NY 10022
Jennifer@Ratclifflaw.org
(646) 741-3030

Law Office of Elisa Hyman, P.C.
42 West 24th Street
New York, NY
info@specialedlawyer.com
(212) 293-8686

Law Firm of Tamara Roff, P.C.
136 Madison Avenue, 5th Floor
New York, New York 10016
info@rofflaw.com
(646) 722-3829

Law Office of Neal Rosenberg
111 John Street, 22nd Floor
New York, New York 10038
(212) 732-9450

Law Office of Michelle Siegel
379 West Broadway
New York, New York 10012
(646) 530-2130

Additional Resources

https://www.includenyc.org/resources/advocacy

These advocates and attorneys are known to The Churchill School as having represented parents in their pursuit of the educational rights of their children. The Churchill School does not endorse any particular attorney or advocacy service and cannot guarantee the quality of service of the legal services provided by any of the above.