

CALGARY WALDORF SCHOOL

Options for Reducing Tuition Fees 2024-2025

The Calgary Waldorf School is committed to providing an inclusive environment where all families wishing to have a Waldorf education for their children feel welcomed and valued as members of our school community. The School charges tuition fees to cover the basic annual operating costs of the school's programs. In addition, we raise funds through donations and special events for several initiatives such as specialized programs (Eurythmy, Learning Support), Waldorf Teacher Training, and a Tuition Assistance Fund to help families who need assistance to pay their tuition fees.

We know that many families in our school community must stretch their resources, make choices, and be creative about earning additional income in order to pay their fees. However, even with these efforts, some families' earnings may not be sufficient to cover the School fees. It is our goal to help families who are in this position to stay as part of our school community, and to help remove the financial barriers for new families wishing to join our school community.

1. Calgary Waldorf School Tuition Assistance Fund

The Tuition Assistance Fund is supported by an allocation of 1% of tuition fees and a portion of the proceeds from our School's fundraising activities such as special events, the Annual Giving Campaign, and the profits from our school store, the Pixie Hut. The Tuition Assistance Fund also annually receives 5% of the total amount of an Endowment Fund held in perpetuity at The Calgary Foundation. The Endowment Fund has a current capital amount of \$1,036,249 and has been made possible by the very generous contributions from an anonymous donor as well as donations received for this purpose through our Annual Giving Campaign. Currently the School grants \$200,000 in Tuition Assistance per year, which helps reduce fees for approximately 25% of our students.

Who Can Apply for CWS Tuition Assistance

The amount of assistance granted to each family is based on financial need, family size, the current years' budget, the number of applicants and family commitment to the school. Extenuating circumstances may also be taken into consideration. Grants vary from year to year depending on the available funds and the pool of applicants but, in general, a family of four people with a combined annual income around \$100,000 (gross) could be eligible for some assistance. Families who qualify for assistance may receive a 10% to 50% reduction in their fees. International applicants and temporary residents are not eligible to apply for assistance. Exceptions may be made for Temporary Residents with recognised extenuating circumstances e.g. Refuge Status.

Application Procedure for CWS Tuition Assistance

Renewing families:

1. By March 1st, complete the Enrolment Renewal Forms and pay half the March deposit.
2. By March 15th, complete the Tuition Assistance application available on our website.

- New families:
1. Complete the New Student Application process and pay the initial deposit when offered placement in the class.
 2. Up to two weeks after student acceptance, complete the Tuition Assistance application available on our website.
 3. Mid-school-year enrolments are not eligible for Tuition Assistance.

2. Subsidies for Junior Kindergarten Fees, Kindergarten Fees and Aftercare Fees

A “**Child Care Subsidy**” through the Government of Alberta may be available for our Junior Kindergarten and/or Aftercare fees depending on the parents’ financial means.

Please go to: <https://www.alberta.ca/child-care-subsidy.aspx> for more information and online applications.

Program Identifiers:

Our Junior Kindergarten and Aftercare programs are considered *Licensed Daycare*, use Program ID 80000756 when applying.

Subsidies are paid directly to the School and will be applied to parent’s monthly payments.

In 2022, the Government of Alberta introduced the **Affordability Grant**. Please go to <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/061d9f31-4edd-4a2a-9f0d-09bb23594934/resource/0f4daa8a-5f58-4678-8278-186aa705ee0b/download/cs-child-care-affordability-grant-funding-guide-2023-12.pdf> for more information on the grant rates. All grants are paid directly to the school and will be applied to parents’ monthly payments after September.

3. Parents’ Choice Bursary Program

An initiative of The Prosser Foundation for low income families enrolling in Kindergarten or above in an independent school. The Foundation selects families giving priority to students entering the school for the first time at the qualifying level. To be eligible, the family must meet current government criteria for being classified as “low income”. Once a family is selected, the bursary covers 50% of tuition costs, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per year per child, paid directly to the School. This bursary will then be continued up to Grade 12, as long as the family remains financially eligible. More information and the Application Form can be found on their website:

www.theprossercharitablefoundation.ca. Under News/Events you will find a guideline for incomes considered eligible for the grant. Please contact Cari Vaughan, Financial Administrator at our School, if you would like to pursue an application for the Parents’ Choice Bursary Program. Applications (and annual renewal applications) must be submitted to the School by March 1st and the School will forward them to The Prosser Foundation. Applications submitted directly to the Prosser Foundation will automatically be disqualified.

**For more information on any of these programs, or to discuss your options confidentially, please contact Cari Vaughan, Financial Administrator of the Calgary Waldorf School, at:
403 - 287 - 1868 ext. 184 or c.vaughan@calgarywaldorf.org**