

# Financial Aid Options at Ruth Washburn

## Ruth Washburn Financial Aid-All Ruth Washburn Families are eligible to apply

The Financial Aid program enables any child of any background to attend the school who might otherwise be unable to attend because of financial limitations. We participate in Colorado's Universal Preschool Program (UPK) which covers at least 360 hours of programming for ALL four year olds at Ruth Washburn in the year before they are eligible for kindergarten (Birthdays between October 2, 2021-October 01, 2022). Please apply to the UPK program if your child will be 4 years old during the dates above: <https://upk.colorado.gov/>. Our internal financial aid is for children who will be 2, 3 or over 5 during the school year. Financial need is the primary criteria for the selection of financial aid recipients.

**We use 300% of the federal poverty level as the highest amount a family can make and still qualify for aid. Please see the chart below for maximum income amounts to qualify through financial need.**

Adults and children in household	maximum income to apply
2	\$ 64,920.00
3	\$ 81,960.00
4	\$ 99,000.00
5	\$ 116,040.00
6	\$ 113,080.00
7	\$ 150,120.00

If you have specific questions regarding your circumstances, please call the Executive Director at 719-636-3084.

Other considerations may be used in allocating funds among those families with demonstrable financial need. Some of these considerations include:

- *School families:* As a cooperative nursery school, we are serving families with young children. We want all children in a family to have an equal opportunity to attend our school if the family has limited resources.
- *BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) and LBGTQ+ families:* Our board has a goal to provide equitable learning opportunities to our diverse Colorado Springs community. As BIPOC and LBGTQ+ families have been historically underrepresented in private preschool programs, our board has identified increasing enrollment as a priority.
- *Children with special needs:* The enrollment of children with special needs, within our ability to provide for their needs, is a valuable goal for our school.

A committee of board finance committee members along with the Executive Director will review all applications for aid and determine the amount of aid to be granted. The committee will notify families of final decisions via the School's Executive Director within one month of the application deadline. The review process will be confidential and anonymous.

In order to offer financial aid to as many families as possible, financial aid awards typically cover up to the lesser of 50% of tuition or the cost of six tuition hours. However, the Financial Aid Committee may approve a higher award amount when circumstances warrant. Every financial aid family is required to pay the balance of tuition for their child/children.

Financial aid awards are confidential and carry no special requirements other than those shared by the general membership. The award will not be reduced or withdrawn during the school year unless the child is withdrawn or expelled from school with the following exceptions: Willful neglect of the member's Co-op responsibilities could be the basis for reduction or rejection of a financial aid award in the current or subsequent years. Awards may be subject to reduction or be withdrawn should a child attend less than 80% of scheduled school days.

**Once you have been offered a class spot at the school** you can fill out the Financial Aid Application at <https://forms.gle/XpTrJco5wBFHRzui6>