



TUITION ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES

AFFORDING A BRIXHAM MONTESSORI FRIENDS SCHOOL EDUCATION: THE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR 2024-2025

Choosing to attend Brixham Montessori Friends School is an important financial, as well as philosophical decision, and one that requires making an investment in your child's future. We understand that for many families the decision to continue at Brixham through the elementary years is difficult as educational expenses increase and free tuition becomes available at local public schools. Consequently, the decision not to re-enroll often becomes a financial decision rather than a philosophical one. We would like to change that and help families stay at Brixham and experience the educational program in its entirety.

Should you decide to make this important investment and need tuition assistance to help cover the cost of tuition, please complete the online financial aid application form in your [TADS account](#) and submit it by **January 14, 2024** for priority consideration by the school. If you do not have a TADS account, you will need to set one up. For step by step directions, please click [here](#). Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the online application or submitting any of the required documents, such as your federal income tax returns. All information regarding tuition assistance applicants, including the names of the recipients, is held in strict confidence.

Tuition assistance awards are based on demonstrated financial need. The tuition assistance application process and awards are confidential.

How do I apply for tuition assistance for the 2024-2025 school year?

In early January, email the school office to request guidelines for tuition assistance. Guidelines will direct you to your [TADS account](#) to complete an online application for tuition assistance. Submit your tuition assistance application with a complete copy of your 2022 federal income tax returns **by January 14, 2024**. The \$65 application fee required for submitting your online application to TADS will be credited to your account if you are eligible for tuition assistance. Applications for tuition assistance will be reviewed by the tuition assistance committee in early February and notification of your eligibility and award will be included in your 2024-2025 tuition re-enrollment contract.

Prospective families: Indicate your interest in applying for tuition assistance on the Brixham Montessori Friends School application for admission. Guidelines for tuition

assistance applications will be mailed to families who have requested to receive tuition assistance information as soon as the guidelines are available for the upcoming school year.

Current families: Must complete a new online tuition assistance application each year and upload the previous year federal income tax returns at the time of application. The current year federal income tax returns should be uploaded to your account no later than April 30th. If you have any questions, please contact Alica Johnson-Grafe, Head of School, at 207-351-2700 or email her at alica@brixhammontessori.org.

Frequently Asked Questions about Tuition Assistance:

Will applying for tuition assistance affect my child's chances for admission? No. Your application for tuition assistance will not impact your child's chances for admission. The admissions decision is made prior to the review of the tuition assistance application by the Tuition Assistance Committee. When the demand for tuition assistance exceeds the available budget, some admitted students may be placed on a tuition assistance waiting list.

How are tuition assistance awards determined? Who can qualify for tuition assistance? The tuition assistance committee will review online tuition assistance applications at the beginning of February and will make a determination on eligibility and the amount of the award based on the information submitted to TADS, our tuition management program, and available tuition assistance funds. The Head of School notifies the family of the award with a tuition assistance award letter that is returned to the family with the re-enrollment tuition contract.

All tuition assistance awards are dependent not only on the family qualifying for need-based financial aid, but also the availability of funds in the tuition assistance budget. In this sense, tuition assistance is a competitive process.

Does Brixham Montessori Friends School offer merit scholarships? No. All tuition assistance is need based.

Will our tuition assistance awards change from year to year? It depends. Tuition assistance awards are recalculated each year using up-to-date financial information. If there is little change in the financial circumstances, families can expect that awards will be renewed at a similar level. If there are significant changes in a family's circumstances, the award may be recalculated. Also, if the school's budget changes dramatically due to significant increases or decreases in operating expenses or if fund-raising efforts fall considerably short (or conversely, exceed expectations), then that may also impact on the school's ability to make awards.

What about cases of divorce, separation or single parent? Brixham Montessori Friends School considers the decision to seek a private school education as requiring the active support of both parents. This cannot be changed by the assertion that one parent disclaims

the responsibility for educational expenses. The tuition assistance committee will consider the income and assets of both parents in determining an award.

If either parent has remarried, the tuition assistance committee will consider the income and assets of the stepparents, bearing in mind that stepparents may have responsibility for their own children as well. All families are expected to pay some tuition according to their means.

Do I need to submit a copy of my income taxes in order to apply for tuition assistance? Yes, please upload a copy of your 1040 Federal Income Tax Return for 2022 with your online tuition assistance application. You will also need to upload a copy of your 2023 Federal Income Tax Return by **April 30, 2024**.

What if I am not satisfied with my tuition assistance award? If the family feels that the tuition assistance award is not sufficient to enable their child to attend Brixham Montessori Friends School, they may request that the award be reviewed by the tuition assistance committee. Requests for review may be made by contacting the Head of School and providing additional supporting documentation of financial need. The tuition assistance committee will review the application and the additional information and will make a recommendation. If the family remains dissatisfied with the tuition assistance award, they may appeal to the Board of Directors.

What if I miss the deadline? The deadline for submission of the tuition assistance application for the 2024–2025 school year is **January 14, 2024**. It is critical that families make every effort to meet this deadline. Families may still apply for tuition assistance after the deadline. However, tuition assistance awards can only be made if funds are available in the budget. Those families who meet the tuition assistance deadline will have priority for aid over the late applicants.