

# WELCOME FROM THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE!

David M. Suter | Associate Head of School & Director of Enrollment



The purpose of this newsletter is to provide specialized information to current and prospective Landmark Preschool (LP) and Ridgefield Academy (RA) families about the schools' tuition assistance process.

This is my tenth year with FA newsletters, and I hope you will find it useful. The tuition assistance process can feel like a daunting one at times, and one of my chief goals is to partner with you to simplify and de-mystify it as much as possible.

Over the course of the school year, these newsletters will include helpful tips about the process, educate families about Landmark Preschool and Ridgefield Academy's commitment to tuition assistance, and increase communication between school and home on this very important topic.

Believe it or not, the time is upon us to contemplate the 2023-2024 school year already, so please do read through the entire newsletter and familiarize yourself with the information. They include a one page overview to answer as many of the "nuts and bolts" of the what/when/where/how variety, a FAQ regarding tuition assistance, and some information specific to our Landmark Preschool and Ridgefield Academy tuition assistance program.

As I work my way through my eighth financial aid application cycle at RA (though certainly not my first with financial aid; this is my 28th year in independent schools, and 24th working with financial aid!), I look forward to working with you as we strive to make access and affordability a reality for as many families as possible in our Landmark Preschool and Ridgefield Academy communities. -David Suter

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Tuition Assistance  
FA On-Demand Webinar

**APPLY  
NOW!**

<https://sssandtadsfa.force.com/PortalSelector/s/>

is a valuable online resource to aid you in your application process.

**THE TIME IS NOW TO BEGIN THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS FOR 2023-2024. IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH THE PROCESS, LET US KNOW!**

**LOOKING FOR AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS?**

You might go to the website

<https://www.solutionsbysss.com/parents/resources>

for a great online overview. On this helpful website, you can identify financial aid options and take the guesswork out of making an independent school education more affordable.

You might also consider reading the “Family Guide to Financial Aid,” downloadable in PDF form. You can also download an ebook called Understanding Financial Aid, or review the five most common sources of aid. Finally, you can see FAQ’s, look at relevant case studies, and browse the NAIS guiding principles for families.

Whether it is reading their documents, calling their toll-free support helpline, or applying online, SSS is there!

**HOW ABOUT COMING IN TO TALK, ONE-TO-ONE?**

One of the best parts about being at a small independent school is having the ability to build relationships.

Parents are invited to come in at any time and sit down with the Director to talk about your application for aid. Your submitted personal information is confidential, and held in confidence by the aid committee. Each family has a unique set of circumstances, and every parent may have their own questions. So, at any point you want to get further clarification, give a call or send an email so that we can meet!

**FAQ'S**

*Q: When can I start the financial aid process for 2023-2024?*

A: Beginning now, you can log-in to [solutionsbysss.com/parents](https://www.solutionsbysss.com/parents) and complete your Parents Financial Statement (PFS)

*Q: Can I complete a paper application or do I have to go online?*

A: School and Student Services (SSS) by the Community Brands no longer accepts paper applications.

*Q: What is the deadline to apply for aid for the 2023-2024 school year?*

A: January 15, 2023 is the due date for completing the PFS to be considered for the first round of aid awards; applications completed after that date will be subject to a rolling, or funds available, evaluation.

*Q: What other forms do I have to submit to have a completed file?*

A: Families must submit 2021 & 2022 1040's & W-2's, at least, in addition to their PFS. These can be uploaded to the SSS website.

**WEBINAR: Counting the Costs: An Introduction to Financial Aid at Private & Independent Schools!**

All are invited to watch this primer about tuition assistance by SSS.

**When: At your leisure!**

**Where: [www.solutionsbysss.com/parents/apply/parent-webinars/](https://www.solutionsbysss.com/parents/apply/parent-webinars/)**

**DID YOU KNOW...**



**\$2 MILLION**

granted in tuition assistance granted for the 2022-2023 school year



**\$18,045**

average need-based award for the 2022-2023 school year



**19%**

of the student body at Landmark Preschool & RA receives tuition assistance



**> 2,100**

schools use SSS to help with tuition assistance



**> 160,000**

families work through SSS each year to receive tuition assistance



**> 1**

families may have more than one child enrolled & receive tuition assistance.