



Tuition Assistance Program Frequently Asked Questions

How are my finances evaluated? School and Student Service for Financial Aid (SSS) is an independent organization that evaluates a family's ability to afford tuition. SSS provides the school with an analysis of the information supplied by the family. This analysis is used to compute the amount the family should be able to contribute toward tuition. The analysis is the primary tool that MRA uses to decide the amount of tuition assistance granted. Unusual circumstances of each family situation are acknowledged and considered by the TAP Committee in its final decision; however, the guiding principle of MRA is the fair distribution of the limited tuition assistance funds available.

How are Admissions and TAP related? Admissions and TAP are completely separate. All new families must submit an application for admission and be accepted prior to applying for tuition assistance. Current families must re-enroll to be eligible for tuition assistance. Candidates for tuition assistance are referred to the TAP Coordinator, who collects all pertinent forms, applications and fees.

Does application for tuition assistance affect admissions? Admission decisions are based solely upon a student's qualifications. The amount of tuition assistance awarded is based on a family's financial need, available funding and an evaluation of the student's academic and behavioral records.

Who should apply for TAP? If the cost of an MRA education is beyond a family's financial means, they should apply for tuition assistance. Income may not preclude the possibility of assistance since other dependents, other tuition costs, considerable debt (excluding consumer debt), unusual medical expenses, or some other extraordinary financial burden are considerations. Within the limits of available funds, MRA seeks to provide tuition assistance grants to all qualified students. MRA's policy for determining the financial need of students is based on the principle that both parents are responsible for the support and educational expenses of their children to the extent that they are financially able to assume that responsibility.

What if I am already at the school, but I have never applied for assistance? MRA accepts tuition assistance applications from returning families who have not received tuition assistance in the past on the same basis as any other families requesting tuition assistance. The same deadlines apply to returning students.

If I currently receive TAP, do I have to apply again? Yes. A family must complete a new application for assistance and a new Parent's Financial Statement each year. TAP funds are not guaranteed from year to year and are based on MRA's available funds and the evaluation process. Each year students are evaluated on leadership, academic progress and character as well as financial need.

Who has access to my financial information? The School is committed to protecting the privacy of its families; therefore, all information received by the TAP Coordinator is held in the strictest confidence. Financial information is only shared with those directly involved in the process.

Who is on the TAP Committee? The TAP Committee is comprised of a committee of members of the Board of Trustees and the Head of School. The Committee strives to establish uniform criteria for evaluating parental ability to pay the total educational expenses of the student. The ultimate responsibility for determining the amount of the grant offered for tuition assistance rests with the TAP Committee of MRA.

How and when should I apply? You must submit a copy of your completed TAP Application, **2018** Federal Income Tax form with copies of the W-2's, Form 4506-T Request for Copy of Tax Return, along with the Tuition Assistance Agreement to the TAP Coordinator and file the Parents' Financial Statement (PFS) with SSS. Consideration will not be given until all information is submitted. Families that submit applications by April 1 will be notified by April 30. Applications filed after April 1 will be evaluated and awarded when application is complete and depending upon the availability of funds.

For further information, please contact Tina Box, TAP Coordinator, at (601) 856-4455 or tbox@mrpats.org.