



Financial Aid General Information **2010 - 2011 School Year**

Dear Parents,

Boulder Country Day believes that an outstanding education should be available to all families. Our commitment and goal is to welcome and support a diverse group of qualified students, including those who would not otherwise be able to attend BCD due to economic constraints.

All financial aid awards are based on a family's demonstrated need, and they are made available to students in our elementary and middle schools. In order to assess a family's financial need, the school uses the School and Student Service for Financial Aid (SSS), a service of the National Association of Independent Schools. Families must complete a Parents' Financial Statement by hand or online with online being the preferred method. This will allow SSS to provide the school with a Report of Family Contribution that will be used to determine the amount of aid that will be awarded for the 2010-2011 school year. In addition, we require copies of your 2009 tax returns for parents and W-2's and / or 1099's.

Applications must be submitted to SSS by February 15, 2010. Inside this packet you will find the procedures, deadlines, and how-to's of applying for financial aid.

We invite you to apply and be part of our efforts to provide the finest academic opportunity in the Boulder area and to be part of a community that spans all economic levels. Please feel free to contact me, or Patti Lemlein, in the Admissions Office, or Bob Akins in the Business Office.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael D. Shields".

Mike Shields
Head of School

Philosophy:

Boulder Country Day is committed to providing access to an independent school education to qualified applicants. We seek students who aspire to academic excellence, personal growth and active participation in school activities. The financial aid program is designed to enable students to attend BCD when they might not otherwise do so for financial reasons.

Policy for Awarding Aid:

- Timely submission of the Parents' Financial Statement is critical to the financial aid process. We are unable to grant financial assistance without the complete application and tax returns. Because we have limited funds, late submission will be considered only if funds are still available.
- Financial need is defined as the difference between the tuition cost at Boulder Country Day and the amount which your family is able to pay for the student's education in a given year. The Report of Family Contribution from SSS provides a recommendation of a family's ability to pay for education, after considering such factors as net income, assets, unusual expenses such as medical expenses, number of dependents, and number of children attending tuition-charging educational institutions. The school will use this recommendation to help determine the amount of aid that will be awarded. A signed copy of the family's Federal Income Tax Return (form 1040 and W-2 or 1099, and corporate return if applicable) is also required.
- Families who are applying for financial aid follow the regular re-enrollment procedures; however, they are only required to make a \$500 deposit per elementary or middle school child. Half of that deposit will be refunded if the child is unable to attend BCD once financial aid is awarded.
- All financial aid awards are made for one year only and will be reviewed annually. Each year and for each child, parents must apply and submit the appropriate paperwork.
- Admission decisions are made independently of decisions to award financial assistance.
- It should be understood that lifestyle choices that result in increased expenses or decreased income cannot be underwritten by the financial aid program and Boulder Country Day School. We expect independent school to be among the family's highest priorities for discretionary spending.
- The financial aid process is conducted with concern and respect for the family's privacy within the school community and all financial aid awards are confidential agreements.

Procedures:

1. **By Feb. 15, 2010** send in the completed Parents Financial Statement to SSS or apply on line at: <http://sss.nais.org/parents/> **Please note: this is a new website address from last year.** Again, applying online is preferred.
2. Be sure to include the Boulder Country Day school code which is: **2218**
3. **By March 15, 2010** send a signed copy of your 2009 federal tax form (1040) including all schedules and W-2 and 1099 forms to Patti Lemlein in the Admissions Office.

(Continued) Procedures:

4. No supplementary forms are required, but **we do encourage families to send a letter** to the Financial Aid Committee letting us know of any special circumstances, or background that would help us understand your situation better. **See the last page of this handout and use the form provided and turn it into Patti Lemlein in the Admissions Office no later than March 15th.**
5. **Please note:** A file is considered complete when the parents financial statements and 2009 tax returns are received from both parents, either jointly or separately, including signatures, all schedules, W-2's and /1099's.
6. Boulder Country Day will notify families of financial aid awards starting on **April 1**. The first tuition payment for any family receiving financial aid for the 2010-2011 school year will be due on **May 1, 2010**.
7. **Requests received after these dates will be considered only if funds are still available.**

Frequently Asked Questions:

What happens if I cannot meet the deadlines (e.g. tax return extensions, non- cooperation from one parent)?

Unfortunately you are at a disadvantage if your file is not complete within the time frame listed in this handout. We start making awards in late March and will continue until funds run out. We do understand sometimes factors are beyond the family's control. During the late spring and early summer if funds become available, and the file becomes complete, you would be considered for an award that takes into account your calculated need and our remaining funds. **If your 2009 taxes will not be done by March 15th please turn in your 2008 taxes and W-2's if we do not already have those on file (for previous applicants). Awards will be made provisional in this situation until we receive the 2009 documentation.**

How do I know if I would qualify for aid?

First a family should look at all personal avenues for meeting costs. If all available resources from parents' employment are still not enough to meet tuition costs then a family may qualify for aid.

Where does the money come from?

Funding is from the school's operating budget and major donors.

(Continued) Frequently Asked Questions:

Is there any preference given to any special group?

Priority is given to current families first and then new families. Sometimes priority is given to those with a documented change in circumstances. Then, priority goes to older Middle school students since they need funds for a shorter period. Elementary students would be at the next level of priority.

The financial aid program does not support socioeconomic and ethnic diversity; however that is a natural result rather than the goal of the program. Our goal in expanding financial aid is to open the door to education for any young person who is eager to learn and to achieve.

Does financial aid cover school fees and other expenses?

No it does not. Fields trips, after school care and lunches, etc. are not covered.

Please feel free to contact one of us with any questions you may have at 303-527-4931 or e-mail us:

Mike Shields	Head of School	x 222	mshields@bouldercountryday.org
Patti Lemlein	Director of Admissions & Marketing	x 248	plemlein@bouldercountryday.org
Bob Akins	Business Manager	x 228	bakins@bouldercountryday.org

2009 Important dates to remember:

February 15th	Parent's financial statement due to SSS
March 15th	Tax records & personal financial statement/letter due to BCD
April 1st	BCD will begin notification of awards to families
May 1st	First tuition payment is due

Please remove this page and include this with your tax returns and turn in both to BCD:

Date: _____

**Name of parent(s) and/or guardian(s) applying for
Financial Aid:**

**Name(s) of child (ren) for which you wish Financial Aid, and the grade each child will be
in during the 2010-2011 school year:**

Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Personal Financial Statement

The personal financial statement will be considered with your application. Please use this page to address your need for Financial Aid and anything else you wish the Financial Aid committee to consider that you feel will give us a better understanding of your financial situation.

This is strictly about your financial picture--- not any other information about your relationship with BCD. Feel free to use additional pages if needed or to type the statement on a separate sheet.

