

What is the Atlanta Montessori International School (AMIS) Education Foundation?

The AMIS Education Foundation is an independent, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization with its own governing body and Board of Directors.

The Foundation serves as an advisory committee to AMIS for financial aid and scholarship awards. The Foundation's primary purpose is to build a diverse community at AMIS by providing financial assistance in order to attract students from economically diverse backgrounds.

Who receives financial aid at AMIS?

The AMIS Education Foundation strives to provide an equal opportunity for all students to receive a Montessori education at AMIS. The scholarship program is aimed to increase economic diversity at AMIS; therefore, financial aid is needs based.

How do I apply for financial aid?

Parents wishing to apply for financial aid must submit a School and Student Service for Financial Aid (SSS) Application, available online at <http://amisfoundation.org>. This application should be submitted to SSS no later than **February 15, 2010**, in order to be considered for the 2010-2011 school year. There is a processing fee of \$35. A limited number of fee waivers are available from the AMIS office. Parents should also mail or deliver copies of their 2008 1040 federal tax forms and their 2009 W2s as soon as they are available.

Do I need to provide any special information if I own my own business?

Parents who own their own business must also download and complete the SSS Business/Farm Statement from the Foundation's website and submit it to the AMIS Education Foundation.

How will you assess my family's financial information?

Financial aid is a needs-based program. We use the National Association of Independent Schools' School and Student Service for Financial Aid (SSS) to process our applicants' financial information according to a standard set of procedures. To the best extent possible, this methodology assesses the financial resources individual families have available to

contribute to tuition. According to SSS, its process "promotes objectivity and consistency in financial aid procedures among schools, and is based on the premise that parents should finance their child's education to the extent they are able." SSS does not provide the financial aid funds; the AMIS Education Foundation does.

What information does SSS use to determine an estimated family contribution?

SSS takes into account many factors, including:

- Income (both taxable and nontaxable) and expenses
- Assets (home equity, other real estate, savings, and investments, etc.) and indebtedness
- Age of parent(s)
- Family size
- Number of children attending tuition-charging schools

SSS considers these and other factors when determining a family's discretionary income. A portion of this discretionary income is then suggested as the family's contribution to education: the more discretionary income a family has, the higher the family contribution.

Who decides on how the financial aid is awarded? How are decisions made?

The AMIS Education Foundation's Scholarship and Grants Committee compiles a recommendation to present to the board. The committee then presents its decisions to the AMIS Education Foundation board. Board members abide by confidentiality policies, and the information they receive is held in strictest confidence. There is no discussion about anyone's financial situation beyond this small group.

The Committee uses the SSS calculation as a guideline in determining awards. However, the Committee generally expects a family to pay more than the SSS calculation suggests, as the Foundation must allocate its limited funds among as many eligible families as possible. For this same reason, we must have an accurate and detailed picture of every applicant's financial circumstances.

If information is incomplete or inconsistent, the Committee may not be able to give the application full consideration.

How much will we have to pay?

All parents are expected to contribute according to their means, taking into account total income, assets, number of dependents, and other appropriate information.

Does financial aid cover anything besides tuition?

Financial aid students receive the same percentage assistance as their tuition award for such things as class trips and other required school activities. It does not cover extracurricular activities for individual students.

Will financial aid continue each year?

It is the policy of the AMIS Education Foundation to continue providing assistance as long as a family's financial situation remains relatively unchanged. Recipients must re-apply every year.

What happens if our financial situation changes after the award is made?

When financial circumstances change significantly (e.g. change in employment, increase in salary, or employment status with AMIS), you must inform the AMIS Education Foundation by contacting us through our e-mail address: info@amisfoundation.org.

When will we hear from the AMIS Education Foundation?

Award decisions are mailed out the first week in April. Financial aid tuition payments are paid directly to the school semi-annually.

Where do the funds that are earmarked for financial aid come from?

The AMIS Education Foundation's 2010-2011 scholarship program will be funded through the Georgia Private School Tax Credit program and fundraising activities supported by AMIS families and friends.

What is the Georgia Private School Tax Credit?

The Georgia State Legislature passed into law in 2008 the Georgia Private School Tax Credit (HB 1133), a program that has set aside \$50 million in credits or tax revenue from the state for use as private school scholarships.

The program provides tuition assistance for public school students who would like to attend private school. **Per Georgia law, only new students currently enrolled in a public elementary school and new or current students eligible for pre-kindergarten or kindergarten are eligible to receive funds from this program.** AMIS confirms the eligible students to receive funds as mandated by the state qualification process and coordinates with the AMIS Education Foundation.

How can the tax credit benefit AMIS and me?

Under this law, you can redirect a portion of your Georgia income taxes for private school scholarship assistance. You will receive a tax credit on your state income taxes and a charitable contribution deduction on your federal income taxes for the amount donated.

How does the program work?

Atlanta Montessori International School (AMIS) has partnered with Apogee Georgia School Choice Scholarship Fund, a state-approved Student Scholarship Organization (SSO), to enable the AMIS community to donate their Georgia state tax liability (up to \$1000 for a single person and \$2500 for married jointly filing); you can claim your donation as a charitable contribution on your federal tax return. By designating AMIS in your donation to the Apogee School Choice Scholarship Fund, you can ensure that your donation goes directly to scholarships for AMIS students.

How do I donate?

Complete an Apogee donation form and a GA IT-QEE-TP1 form. These forms are available for download at <http://amisfoundation.org/ga-private-school-tax-credit>.

Send the forms to:

Apogee Georgia School Choice Scholarship Fund
3300 Cumberland Blvd., Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30339

Apogee will send your forms to the GA Department of Revenue. Within 30 days, you will receive an approval letter. You then need to send the approval letter to Apogee with your donation check.

If you have any questions about the Apogee Georgia School Choice Scholarship Fund, please contact the AMIS Education Foundation or John Panessa, our representative at Apogee, at 404.419.7123 or via email at jpanessa@apogee360.com.



<http://www.apogeescholarships.org/>

Additional information

If you have any questions about the AMIS Education Foundation's scholarship program, please contact us at 404-325-6777 or info@amisfoundation.org or visit <http://amisfoundation.org>.

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<http://amisfoundation.org>



AMIS Education Foundation Scholarship Program 2010-2011

Applying for Financial Assistance

Frequently Asked Questions