

## Tuition Assistance Overview

We believe the primary responsibility for financing a student's independent school education rests with the family. However, we also recognize the need to provide assistance in order to retain a broad spectrum of students in concert with The Montessori Academy's mission. Tuition Assistance is awarded by the academic year. Parents must apply for Tuition Assistance each year to be considered. Please be advised that you may not receive the same award amount each year. Your financial information is confidential and guarded closely.

- The Toddler program does not qualify for Tuition Assistance.
- Auxiliary fees are not part of a tuition assistance award.

The Montessori Academy Edison Lakes (TMA) uses FACTS Grant & Aid to process applications.

The FACTS Grant & Aid application is completed on-line and has an annual fee of \$35.00 per family payable to FACTS Grant & Aid on their website at the end of the session. The FACTS Grant & Aid online submission deadline for all applications is March 15th.

- Families applying for Tuition Assistance must turn in the enrollment contract, Tuition Assistance contract amendment, Family Information form and a \$250/child tuition deposit to TMA before applying on-line with FACTS Grant & Aid.
- After completing the FACTS Grant & Aid online application you will be required to submit your most recent tax returns to FACTS Grant & Aid. Your tax returns must be submitted by March 29th after completing the FACTS Grant & Aid on-line application.

Awards are made annually based on financial need, enrollment needs of TMA, parent volunteer commitment and maintenance of a population consistent with our mission.

Tuition Assistance Packets are available on our website ([www.tma-el.org](http://www.tma-el.org)) as well as in the Finance office.

Contact The Montessori Academy Edison Lakes Finance Office, with questions: 574-256-5313 ext. 211 or [finance@tma-el.org](mailto:finance@tma-el.org).

## **Tax Credit Scholarship Program**

The Montessori Academy (TMA) has partnered with Sagamore Institute to offer our families Scholarships for Education Choice. TMA does NOT participate in Choice Scholarship Programs (voucher programs). The Tax Credit Scholarship Program is NOT a Choice Scholarship Program (voucher program).

- TMA solicits donations for their SGO (Tax Credit) Scholarship Program. Donations to the SGO Scholarship Program are tax-deductible on your federal return, if you itemize, and qualify for an Indiana state tax credit of 50% of the value of the donations. Businesses & individuals may make contributions and designate a specific school they wish to support. These donations are used to fund the TMA SGO Scholarship Program.
- SGO Scholarships are determined and awarded by TMA on a first come, first served basis. If funds are available in the TMA's Indiana SGO fund, TMA will review the families FACTS Grant & Aid Tuition Assistance application and send an authorization request to the family for TMA to submit an SGO application on their behalf.
  - o Families should NOT apply directly to the SGO, TMA's Finance Department will submit the applications on behalf of the families.
  - o Awarded SGO Scholarship funds are paid directly to the school and applied to tuition accounts.
- TMA uses their current Tuition Assistance awarding guideline process to determine the SGO Scholarship amount. The total offered by TMA for Tuition Assistance and SGO Scholarships will not exceed 75% of the total tuition due.
- The statute authorizing SGO Scholarships requires an eligible scholarship recipient to be:
  - o An Indiana resident.
  - o Between 5 and 22 years of age and enrolled at a participating school (students entering kindergarten must be 5 by August 1<sup>st</sup> unless the school determines that a child with a later birthdate is kindergarten-ready and agrees to enroll that child in kindergarten).
  - o A member of a household with an adjusted gross income (AGI) of 200% or less of the amount required to qualify for the federal free and reduced meal program\*\*
    - Household income is verified by TMA through the families FACTS Grant & Aid application for Tuition Assistance. Tax documentation must be provided by ALL members of the household

- The tax documentation MUST be for the taxable year IMMEDIATELY preceding the date the scholarship application was submitted.
- TMA will send an SGO award determination letter to the family along with the TMA Tuition Assistance award determination letter.
- Once awarded an SGO scholarship by TMA, it is not transferable to another school.
- If TMA awards your child an SGO scholarship of \$500 or more, the “pathway” would be met if you would like your child to participate in the voucher program, at another school, in the future.

\*\* The number of family members living in the household is based on the total reported on the tax forms, usually the 1040 form. However, if there are more people living in the household at the time of the TMA FACTS Grant & Aid Tuition Assistance Application, they must be included in the household size calculation below. In addition, their income must be included in the FACTS Grant & Aid Tuition Assistance Application if they are contributing to the household financially & living in the household in which the child resides.

200% of Free/Reduced Meal Income Eligibility Guidelines 2019-2020	
Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$46,213
2	\$62,567
3	\$78,921
4	\$95,275
5	\$111,629
6	\$127,983
7	\$144,337
8	\$160,691
Each Additional	\$16,354