



The Taft School

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your interest in Taft. Taft is proud of its \$6,760,000 financial aid budget, which supports 37% of the student body. The following are the steps that you must follow in order to apply for financial aid for the 2012–13 academic year. **All awards are based on your family's demonstrated financial need; we do not offer merit-based awards.** Applying for financial aid can be a confusing process, so please read the following instructions carefully.

Financial Aid Application Due Dates:

February 1, 2012, for all new admissions applicants.

February 1, 2012, for all returning students not previously on aid. Please note that if you did not receive financial aid in past years, you must apply with all incoming students. You must also contact the Financial Aid Office to indicate that you will be applying for financial assistance. In addition to the instructions below, an explanation and documentation as to the changes in your financial situation will be required.

March 1, 2012, for all returning financial aid students.

To be eligible for consideration for financial aid at Taft, **you must complete your financial aid application and have your supporting documentation submitted by the deadlines listed above.** We will communicate decisions about financial aid along with our admissions decisions on March 10, 2012. **Be sure to indicate on your admissions application that you are applying for financial aid.** Returning students and families will be sent renewal enrollment contracts and updated financial aid awards in mid-April.

Taft uses the School and Student Services (SSS) to process our financial aid applications. SSS is a service of the National Association of Independent Schools. Based on the financial information you provide, SSS gives us an estimated amount that your family can contribute to educational expenses. This helps our school make fair and objective financial aid decisions. To begin your financial aid application for the 2012–13 enrollment year, please follow the steps below:

ONLINE:

1. As early as November 1, 2011, go to sss.nais.org.
2. Click on the prompt to begin your Parents' Financial Statement (PFS). You only need to complete one PFS even if you have more than one child applying to our school.
3. You will be given a username and password that will allow you to return to your PFS at a later date before submitting it. Your information will be secure.
4. You will be given instructions about submitting supporting documents. All supporting documentation must be sent to SSS. At Taft, we require the following supporting documents.
 - a. A complete copy of your 2009 and 2010 Federal Income Tax Return along with all supporting schedules.
 - b. A complete copy of your 2011 return as soon as it is complete.
 - c. A copy of all 2011 W2s.
 - d. A copy of all 2011 year end pay stubs.
 - e. Business tax returns (2009–2011) for those who own their own businesses.
 - f. A signed but not dated copy of the IRS 4506 form.
 - g. Additional documentation may be required as we evaluate your file.

Please Note: If you apply for financial aid online, your information will be delivered accurately and quickly to our school, allowing us to make a quicker decision about your eligibility for financial aid.

BY MAIL

1. If you don't already have a printed Parents' Financial Statement (PFS), call Taft's Admissions Office at 860-945-7700.
2. Complete the PFS and return it to School and Student Services by NAIS, Application Processing Center, PO Box #449, Randolph, MA 02368-0449 USA.
3. Submit all supporting documentation as listed above.

Please note that meeting deadlines is an important part of the process. Late information can jeopardize an award.

In the case of separated or divorced parents, Taft requires a completed PFS from both natural parents and any stepparents. An application with only one PFS will be considered incomplete. If you would like to discuss your particular situation, please do not hesitate to call the Financial Aid Office at Taft.

This can be a complex and confusing process so please contact us with any questions you may have. There are three contact people in the Financial Aid Office at Taft: Suzanne Campbell, Michael Hoffman and Matt Mason. We can be reached at 860-945-7700. It is our desire to make this process as straightforward as possible. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely yours,

Suzanne H. Campbell
Director of Financial Aid
860-945-7700
campbells@taftschool.org