



# Wissahickon Public Schools

## Financial Assistance Protocols—Parent/Guardian Primer

DATE: September 28, 2018

As part of the educational experience in the Wissahickon School District, there are a variety of fees that are assessed to support our academic and co-curricular programs. In some cases, these fees help protect our investment in 21<sup>st</sup> century technology, such as insurance for the laptops provided to each student in grades 6-12. Other fees support curriculum-related events such as field trips. As a student moves into the high school years, there are fees for college related tests, such as SAT/PSAT. Additionally, there may be fees associated with activities such as athletics, music, art, clubs or school-sponsored events such as dances.

All of these programs and activities are considered to be an important part of each student's educational experience. Wissahickon values our families' support in funding these exceptional programs and activities which enhance the student's academic, social, physical and emotional growth. However, we also realize that these fees may present a hardship to a family, and as a result, it is our mission to ensure that no student goes without necessary school supplies or forgoes participation in an activity/school event due to the expense.

In support of that mission, the district offers waivers to a family with financial need for various expenses and fees that are considered essential to a child's education. For example, the laptop insurance fee charged to a 6-12 grader could be waived as the laptop is an essential tool for a student's learning. Additionally, partner organizations, such as the home and school associations in each school, hold fundraisers which can help cover expenses for a family with financial need. The district also receives contributions from charitable organizations and local government agencies to support families with school-related necessities.

One of the best resources to support families with financial need is the National Schools Lunch Program. This program ensures a student receives a healthy lunch at a free or reduced rate. Additionally, students in this program are eligible for fee waivers which can save families a considerable amount of money throughout their children's education. For instance, some college application costs (application fees, test fees, etc.) may be waived. Therefore, we strongly encourage families to review the program eligibility guidelines for the National Schools Lunch Program and complete an application. More information about the program can be found on our website (**[www.wsdweb.org](http://www.wsdweb.org)**-click the "Food Services" link under the "Parents" tab). Please note that the application is now submitted electronically, and if you need assistance in applying, you can contact Eileen George at [egeorge@wsdweb.org](mailto:egeorge@wsdweb.org) or 215-619-8000, extension 1120.

In addition to financial assistance for the expenses listed above, there is also support available to Wissahickon students and families to help with other costs that are an important part of a child's education and growth. For example, dues for a club or a school sponsored event fee. If your family experiences financial difficulties with any school-related expenses, please do not hesitate to contact the school principal or guidance counselor to discuss eligibility for support and payment options. All requests are strictly confidential.

Lastly, we also encourage families to check out the resources available through a variety of charitable organizations in the area. These organizations are unique in the ways they help families pay for a wide range of other, often not necessarily school-related necessities, such as food and clothing, as well as more specific needs such as fees for summer camp or extracurricular activities. We have a list of these agencies on our website (**click on the "WSD Family Resources" link under the "Our Community" tab**) or call Kristen Rawlings at 215-619-8022.