



Our **Matched Tuition** Is Customized for Your Family

Dear Parents,

You want an engaging and effective education for your child, and we want to make sure that joining the Meridian community is affordable for your family. Since our founding, Meridian Academy has succeeded in our mission to serve an economically diverse community. We are located in the center of the amazing city of Boston, and our population is drawn from different neighborhoods and towns in the greater metropolitan area. Our students have a common interest in experiencing a powerful education with schoolmates from diverse backgrounds.

Meridian strives to make attendance financially possible for every admitted applicant. Our Matched Tuition plan is matched to your resources and makes our education accessible for you and your children. Every Meridian family benefits from our commitment to keeping our tuition as low as possible. Meridian's top tuition is \$20,000 less than at many other local independent schools while providing a student-teacher ratio of 5 to 1. However, that cost is still more than most Boston families can afford, so more than half of our families have a tuition that is significantly less than the maximum.

How Is a Family's Matched Tuition Determined?

Each family's tuition is based on their income and assets as reported to the School and Student Service (SSS), an independent organization used by most independent schools to determine how much a family is able to contribute toward their children's education. If a family determines that our top tuition is within their means, they can waive this process.

How Much Will Our Tuition Be?

Each family's circumstances are distinctive, and your Matched Tuition will be based on many different factors. If a family opts to not submit an SSS application, they will be asked to pay the top tuition for their child's grade. Here are three sample families (with only three factors) and their tuition:

Annual Family Income	Children	Assets/Savings	Tuition
\$42,000	1	\$1200	\$500
\$92,000	2	\$47,000	\$8,000
\$130,000	1	\$370,000	\$19,000

The top tuitions for 2019-2020 are:

Grades 6 and 7	\$30,600
Grades 8 and 9	\$31,100
Grades 10, 11, and 12	\$31,600

Will Our Tuition Change Over the Years?

Unless a family's financial circumstances change considerably, Meridian will typically continue to offer a tuition that is similar to when a student is first admitted, adjusted only according to the growth in our top tuition. For example, if a family is paying 25% of tuition, they will continue to be offered a tuition that results in them paying approximately 25% of each year's top tuition. Families who cannot afford the top tuition for all of their child's years at Meridian should apply for Matched Tuition from their first year, even if they have savings that could cover that one year. Returning families submit their information to SSS each year. If a family's finances do change, Meridian will adjust tuition accordingly either upward or downward (if our resources permit additional support).

What Other Fees and Costs Are There?

Texts, books, extracurricular activities, yearbooks, a Meridian Academy sweatshirt, and field trips are included in tuition. A few opportunities are extra, such as overnight trips for our extracurricular Model United Nations delegation and the Spanish Community Service Trip abroad that each student takes in their sophomore or junior year. Students in grade 9 and above are required to have a laptop. [For families whose Matched Tuition is less than 25% of the top tuition, full assistance is available for these technology and travel expenses.](#) Meridian is committed to economic equity and access for all curricular and extra-curricular experiences. Support for college visits is also available. Meridian does not cover lunch or T-pass costs.

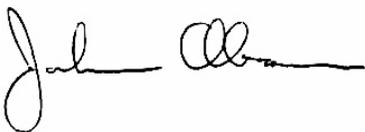
How Is Meridian Able to Be So Affordable?

Meridian uses the resources of the Greater Boston area to enrich our students' learning and to lessen our costs. Most of our budget is dedicated to our wonderful faculty and maintaining small and personalized classes. Meridian devotes over a third of our budget to lowering tuition costs for our families. This commitment is more than twice as much as the national average for independent schools.

If you are excited about Meridian and what it can offer your child and family, please apply. Our Matched Tuition model means that you will only be asked to pay what is within your means.

If you have any questions regarding Matched Tuition or completing your SSS submissions, please contact us.

Regards,



Joshua Abrams
Head of School

Notes for filling out your Parent Financial Statement (PFS) on SSS

- All families receiving Matched Tuition submit their financial information online at www.solutionsbysss.com/parents. Please note that the \$51 fee will be automatically waived by SSS for families for whom, based on submitted financial information, this cost would be a burden.
- Once you have read about the process, click on the green “Complete Your PFS” button. You may save your progress and return to it after you have gathered needed information.
- Please enter Meridian’s school code #3702 in the Parents’ Financial Statement (PFS).
- While it does help, you do not need to complete your IRS Form 1040 before completing the PFS (due by February 15 for Regular Admissions families). Certain numbers may be estimated based on past and present circumstances. Ultimately, your PFS and tax return should match.
- By May 1st, you are required to submit your tax returns and W2 forms online through SSS (preferred) or you may give Meridian paper copies.
- One of the fields will ask for your assessment of what you can afford for tuition. Please understand that, in addition to Meridian’s support, many families embracing the importance of education ask for help from grandparents and other relatives who are dedicated to their child. This extended family support is essential to Meridian’s success in serving a diverse community. Any financial support that may be available beyond the parents’ income and assets can be listed on the PFS.
- Meridian will consider the assets and income of all parents when determining an award. Non-custodial parents are required to complete the PFS.
- **Our Matched Tuition Policy.** Meridian uses the SSS recommendation as a starting point. Your Matched Tuition is affected by the following factors:
 - The School and Student Service (SSS) report and its estimate of a family’s financial ability (your expected family contribution or EFC).
 - The family’s self-assessment of their ability to contribute to the tuition costs.
 - Meridian Academy’s available resources.
 - The number of families qualifying for Matched Tuition at different levels.
 - The school’s mission to serve a diverse and balanced student body.
 - If all children are in full-day school, we expect both parents to be working. If one parent is not working, we impute \$20,000 for the non-working parent, unless there is a documented, significant impediment to their employment.