



2023/2024 Financial Aid Application

Financial aid for students attending the National Sport School



Financial Assistance Guidelines for Parents

The National Sport School (the NSS) is considered an 'Alternative Education Program' School according to the Alberta Ministry of Education and the Education Act (formerly the School Act, section 21).

An Alternative Education Program emphasizes a particular language, culture, religion or subject matter or uses a particular teaching philosophy. In the case of the National Sport School, we emphasize the athletic development and the athletic performance of our student-athletes.

Alternative Education Programs are typically schools of choice, in Alberta there are always other options for students to attend the general public education stream, and if a family chooses to attend an Alternative Education Program school, **then they are responsible for the non-instructional Alternative Program Costs – which, in the case of the NSS for the 2023/2024 school year, is \$5,250.**

Every 'Alternative Education Program' school has its own procedures and policies regarding the awarding of financial assistance to student applicants. However, in general terms, there are similar approaches and philosophy that each school uses, and these are summarized below:

1. Financial assistance is awarded to help eligible students attend an Alternative Education Program school where the Financial Aid Committee considers the financial resources of the student’s family to be insufficient to reasonably pay the Alternative Program Costs and where it is deemed to be a material financial need. Having said that, the National Sport School’s philosophy and approach to financial aid is:

a. That the family contribute as much as is possible towards the non-instructional Alternative Program costs of the student, which can mean:

i. Reduced discretionary funds available to the family for:

1. Vacations.
2. Retirement contributions if the parents are relatively young.
3. Club memberships.
4. Camps and other discretionary activities.

b. That, where appropriate, the family may have to borrow a portion of the funds for the non-instructional Alternative Program costs; and

c. That financial assistance is provided to help families afford the non-instructional Alternative Program Costs, and it is not provided to supplement or enhance the lifestyle of the family.

2. Financial assistance for the NSS non-instructional Alternative Program costs is restricted as follows:

a) Each NEW student who qualifies for financial aid, regardless of grade, will be eligible for a maximum of \$1000 in bursaries. Each additional year a student attends the NSS, if they still qualify for financial aid, they will be eligible for an incremental \$200 on the amount received in the prior year.

1 st Year of Attendance	\$1,000
2 nd Year of Attendance	\$1,000 + \$200
3 rd Year of Attendance	\$1,000 + \$400
4 th Year of Attendance	\$1,000 + \$600
5 th Year of Attendance	\$1,000 + \$800

b) No financial assistance is available for students out of province or outside of Canada.

c) The annual increase in available financial aid is intended to mitigate the cumulative impact of a family paying the Alternative Program Fee over time.

3. The evaluation of financial need for the family of a student is an evaluation of that particular family’s financial situation and resources. Hence, there is no predetermined level or range that is used to consider the eligibility for financial assistance of applicants:

- a. There is no specific level of income that is used as a qualification criteria.
 - b. There is no level of asset or net worth that is used to disqualify applicants, and
 - c. There is no financial situation or occupation that disqualifies an applicant.
4. The ultimate determination of financial need is the amount of free cash flow that should be available to the family in a normalized situation. However, the school may also consider the borrowing ability of the family based on net worth or available corporate assets, or the availability of support from relatives, any of which could supplement the families expected and available cash. This available cash or other resources are compared to the forecast educational costs for the student and any other child attending a tuition charging school of the family.
5. The difference between the total educational cost and estimated free cash flow is an indication of expected financial need, however the NSS may not provide financial assistance equal to this determination, for various reasons:
- a. The NSS has limited total available financial assistance funds, and as a result, we may be only able to provide limited assistance in certain circumstances in order to benefit the highest number of applicants.
 - b. The NSS may have allocated most of our financial assistance funds for students already in the school, and so have limited funds remaining for new students and / or new applications.

Please note that if you choose to apply for financial aid, in addition to supplying all the qualitative and quantitative information on the application form, we may require you to provide supporting evidence (such as your most recent T4) to validate your expression of financial need.

The final decision for financial assistance is made by taking into account numerous factors, often competing, including family finances, school finances, student academics/talents, etc. This decision is a combination of objective and subjective factors and is almost always a difficult decision to make.

The final decision is often a compromise between an individual family's need and the available financial aid funds being utilized to assist the maximum number of students.