



School Selection Timeline: A Guide to Financing Your Child's Education

Navigating the process of selecting the right school for your child and securing the necessary financial support can seem daunting, but with careful planning and attention to timelines, it becomes manageable. Here's a guide to help you through each step:

August - November 2024: School Selection and Touring

- Start researching and identifying schools that might be a good fit for your child. This is an excellent opportunity to visit campuses, attend open houses, and get a sense of the school's culture, values, and curriculum.
- When visiting, prepare a list of questions to ask about the school's academic programs, extracurricular activities, support services, and admission processes.
- Note the application deadlines and enrollment periods for each school. Some schools offer rolling admissions, meaning they accept applications throughout the year until spaces are filled, while others have specific application windows. Submitting applications early can increase your chances of securing a spot for your child.

January - February 2025: School Applications

- This is the typical timeframe when most schools open their application processes. Each school has its own deadlines and specific requirements. Make sure that you know when those deadlines are and the specific requirements for the application.
- Ensure you have all necessary documents prepared ahead of time. This might include transcripts, IEP/504/IEE/MET plans, letters of recommendation, and personal statements.
- It's important to submit as soon as the applications open. Timely submission is crucial as many schools have limited spots and competitive admissions.
- If you get on a waitlist, it's worth the wait to stay on the waitlist. Waitlists can be very fluid, and it's okay to be on multiple different waitlists.

February - May 2025: STO Applications

- During these months, you will apply for financial aid through Scholarship Tuition Organizations (STOs). These are organizations that provide funding to help cover private school tuition costs.
- Like school applications, STO applications have their own deadlines and requirements, which can vary. Make sure that you are aware of the deadlines and requirements.

- It is important to submit these applications promptly to maximize your chances of receiving financial aid. You should receive notifications about your funding status by June.

May - June 2025: ESA Applications

- After applying for STO funding, you should apply for an Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA). ESAs provide families with state funds to pay for various approved educational expenses, including private school tuition, tutoring, and other educational services.
- Once you know the amount awarded by the ESA, you can compare it with any STO funding you might receive. This comparison will help you determine the best financial option for your child's education.

June - July 2025: Finalize Funding and Contracts

- In this final step, review the funding offers from both the ESA and any STOs. Choose the option that provides the most financial support for your child's education.
- You will need to sign a contract to accept the funds, either through the ESA or the STO. You cannot accept both in the same contract year, so make sure to weigh the two wisely.
- Additionally, ensure that you understand all the terms and conditions associated with the funding source you choose.

By following these steps and adhering to the timelines, you can effectively navigate the process of selecting a school and securing the necessary financial support for your child's education. If you have any questions or need assistance navigating this process, please don't hesitate to reach out to hello@loveyourschool.org! If you have more questions, we want to hear from you!