

Questions Regarding Donations to Montessori Program

01. When does this ACLU settlement come into effect?

The lawsuit was filed in September and the settlement was handed down on December 9, 2010. The settlement merely clarifies the existing law and mechanisms for enforcement of the “free school guarantee”. Legislation is underway and will likely be passed this summer (the Lara Bill). This is an urgency bill so new regulations will go into effect as soon as that bill passes.

02. Will you be refunding the amount we already paid as we considered this as tuition?

Unless parents request a refund we will not automatically be reimbursing any previous fee requests. We are hopeful that parents realize that we need funds to run programs and that without the funds we will be looking at scaling back what we can offer.

03. If this is not tuition and is not required to be paid will this qualify as donations?

Donations can still be solicited by the Montessori parent group to support the ongoing elements of the Montessori programs. The parent group may choose to request donations from Montessori parents to help pay for additional Instructional Assistant support, Montessori professional development as well as unique and costly Montessori materials. The donation will not be required but will be important for running a full program.

04. Can the school give us an acknowledgement stating the amount of donation paid for the year 2010 and 2011?

The school can give a receipt for any donations paid, and to our knowledge this is tax deductible. Please check with your tax advisor to make sure.

05. Is the school a qualified organization as per IRS and are the donations tax deductible?

School Districts are qualified organizations and we believe that donations like this are tax deductible. Again, please consult your tax advisor, but the school can give a letter of thanks for a donation on letterhead.

06. If the monthly fee is not a requirement anymore; how will it be fair for people who voluntarily honor their commitments with those that don't pay?

As it is with any solicitation for a donation, donations are made voluntarily. Every parent has the same opportunity to donate. If donations are not sufficient to support certain programs, it may be that programs will need to be altered to fit within the existing budget. This has been done with other programs in the past, including class size reduction efforts.