



## Samis Day School Funding Policy FAQs

### What is a Day School Funding Policy?

It is a document that provides guidelines to Samis and the community defining what constitutes a Jewish day school which qualifies for Samis funding. It also stipulates how Samis determines grants for Jewish day schools.

It's a clear statement of the guidelines Samis uses to determine grantmaking for Jewish day schools. The purpose is to create transparency and clarity for Samis and the community.

### Why did Samis develop a policy at this time?

A Funding Policy is standard practice at Foundations and other granting organizations. It articulates Samis guidelines for funding. We completed a Strategic Plan for Philanthropy in December 2020, and it is time to update the policy which was last reviewed in 2014. Samis will use this policy to create guardrails for the future so that Samis' granting is the most impactful it can be.

### What are the key points of the Policy?

The Funding Policy aligns with Samis' strategic goals for a vibrant Jewish day school community in Washington State. Key metrics in the policy include vitality, sustainability and growth and the Funding Policy reflects these priorities.

### What is in the policy?

The policy includes two sections, one on Who Samis Funds and the second on How Samis Funds. Each section explains Samis grantmaking priorities so that grant applicants know what to expect and whether they are likely to qualify for Samis funding.

### Who will Samis fund?

Successful grant applicants must demonstrate alignment with Samis' strategic goals for quality, enrollment growth, vitality and sustainability. Samis will determine alignment based on enrollment, organizational structure, curriculum and educational requirements, financial sustainability, and communal responsibility.

## How will Samis determine grants to day schools?

Moving forward, Samis grants will address affordability, enrollment, and special initiatives. Total Samis grants will be capped as a percentage of a school's operating budget as described below.

Affordability grants will be calculated based on actual Traditional Tuition Assessment (TTA) and Day School Affordability (DSA).

Per capita enrollment grants are a new category of funding reflecting Samis' commitment to enrollment growth as articulated in the Strategic Plan for Philanthropy. A per capita award of \$1800 for K-8 and \$3600 for 9-12 will be provided based on actual enrollment.

Samis will continue to fund Special Initiative grants in the areas of professional development, special needs education, collaboration, and Israel trips. Although Samis will no longer be funding technology, capacity building and curriculum, schools will be able to use the unrestricted funding provided in the affordability and per capita enrollment grants to address these needs.

## Are you eliminating Operations Grants?

Yes. We are eliminating how we calculated Operations Grants in the past. Previously, Operations Grants for most schools were calculated based on a 3-year weighted average of assessed scholarship needs through the Traditional Tuition Assessment (TTA) process. Starting in the 2023-24 school year, affordability grants will be calculated based on actual Traditional Tuition Assessment (TTA) and Day School Affordability (DSA) for students enrolled at the school.

## Is there a cap on total grants as in the past?

Samis previously capped Operations Grants 30% of a school's operating budget. There was no specific cap on grants for Special Initiatives. Moving forward, there will be a cap on total Samis grants set at 45% of a school's operating budget.

## What will happen if a school's Operations Grant has historically been in excess of actual Traditional Tuition Assessment (TTA)?

There will be a phase out of excess funding over five years.

## What if a school has not received funding before, can they apply now?

There is a moratorium on funding additional Jewish day schools in the Seattle area, because of the oversaturation of schools for our community's size. Seattle currently has more schools per Jewish population, with the lowest collective enrollment of most communities in North America.

### Where can I find the Day School Funding Policy?

It is on Samis' website under the Day School tab.

### Where can I ask questions?

Contact Melissa Rivkin at [melissar@samis.com](mailto:melissar@samis.com) should you have any additional questions.