



summit schools
brilliant beginnings, bright futures

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who attends Summit Schools? Summit is an educational environment with rich diversity. We have a history of families from countries outside the US who attend Summit, including families speaking languages other than English in the home. Currently, our students travel from 6 different school districts to attend Summit each day and come to us with all types of gifts and talents. At Summit we value all types of learners and work closely with each student as an individual.

If my child can attend our local public school for free, why should I consider paying tuition for an independent education for my child? Students at Summit grow in an environment that values each learner as a unique individual. Students at Summit are supported as they come to discover how they learn best. Students are taught the skills of self-advocacy, and as a result, are able to find and express their student voice. A core belief at Summit is that the best educational investment a parent can make is one that ensures a lifelong love of learning. That all starts with a strong early education program.

Students transferring to Summit love the small class sizes that allow them to find their own unique learning style and to participate in the community more fully.

Where do Summit students go after 8th grade? How does Summit prepare them for this transition? Summit students have integrated well into both public and private schools. Summit students adapt well in larger environments as they have already experienced what a community of learners looks like and have developed leadership skills as well as a sense of urgency.

Summit students are tracked with core curriculum standards while also provided opportunities to achieve beyond levels of proficiency. At Summit, students find their voice and they are encouraged to use it.

How does Summit educate children to be responsible community members? Summit students work and play in an environment practicing The Summit Way which promotes kindness to others and mutual respect. It is more than a platitude, but a way of living intentionally every day. Students are taught the importance of philanthropy and community service, often completing fundraising and community-based projects in the same school year. Summit curriculum strives to develop not only the IQ of the child, but also the EQ (emotional quotient) of

the child to encourage students to become better members of their community, not only now, but throughout their lifetime.

“I’m worried that our child won’t have friends in the neighborhood if he/she attends Summit.” What has been the experience of other Summit parents? Summit students have the benefit of their built-in neighborhood friendship network along with the addition of their diverse school community made up of students from six different school districts. Additionally, many Summit students participate in a variety of activities available in the community at large (club sports, music lessons/groups, church activities and the like).

What do I need to provide in terms of medical records for my child to enroll at Summit?

Before the first day of school, we require a copy of their most current immunization form signed by a doctor or nurse and a medical information form giving Summit authority to have your child treated by a medical professional if an accident occurs and you cannot be reached. If your child is in PreK, we require a form signed by a doctor indicating your child is in good health and able to participate in all classroom activities. Kindergarten students are required to have a form on file signed by their dentist indicating that they have received an initial dental exam.

My child needs to take medication during the school day. Can I send it to school in a plastic bag and have them take it when they eat lunch? Medication (prescription and over-the-counter) needs to be sent to school in the original container. A parent must bring it to the main office and fill out a [Permission to Administer Medication form](#). There can be no exceptions to this policy. When the medication is no longer needed at school, a parent must drop by the office to pick up the medication. It cannot be sent home in a student’s backpack.

I have a meeting before and/or after school. Can my child attend Extended Day? Extended Day is open to all Summit students who have pre-registered for Extended Day and if space is available that day. Email or call our Office Manager and they will check on availability.

I will be out of town and my child is being picked up after school by their grandparents. Is there any other information I need to provide to the office? Email or call your child’s teacher and the Office Manager with contact information for the person picking up your child. Please have the individual(s) come to the front office to sign your child out before leaving if they are going to pick up your child before 3:30.

I signed a contract, but now my job is changing and my family must move...am I still obligated to pay tuition at Summit? Summit requires 30 days notice when your family is relocating 45 minutes driving distance away or more. Once you provide Summit proof of your forwarding address and record of enrollment from your child’s new school, your contract will be voided and you will only be required to pay tuition through the end of your child(ren)’s last month at Summit.

What is covered by the Activity Fee? Are the fees the same for each grade level/pod? The amount of the activity fee varies from pod to pod based on the different opportunities of each level. These activities may include monthly field trips, YALE programming, Health & Wellness activities, roller skating, theatrical programs, snow shoeing, Pod 3 Flexible Fridays, college visit learning opportunities, fishing, community outreach, etc.

Is there a required volunteer commitment to send my child to Summit? Volunteerism is important to our school's mission. We have been humbled by all those who have stepped up to help us throughout the years. The needs of Summit vary each year, and it is with the effort of Summit families that we are able to meet the needs of our school and our students. Please record your volunteer hours through your [online FACTS Family Portal account](#).

Below is only a beginning list of volunteer opportunities for your family:

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| Deep cleaning the school | Volunteer at PTO events |
| Raking or weeding | Volunteer for Scholastic Book Fair |
| Preparing book orders for teachers | Painting at school |
| Volunteering for classroom parties | Building & Grounds committee |
| Open house volunteers | Driving on field trips |
| Back-to-school preparation | Spread mulch on the playground in the fall |
| Volunteer for fundraisers | Represent Summit at community events |

What fundraising does Summit participate in? While Summit has removed fundraising from its operating budget, some forms of fundraising for our nonprofit will remain, including Dine Out to Donate restaurant events, PTO events, Hy-Vee receipt collection and Box Tops for Education receipt scans to help fund special projects for our school.

Is financial assistance available to help offset tuition costs? Summit has a long understanding that maintaining a diverse community is as much a matter of educational excellence as it is a matter of social and civic responsibility. Our commitment to diversity – including socioeconomic diversity – represents idealism about the kind of learning community we want Summit students to experience, and realism about the kind of world in which Summit graduates live. [Financial aid applications](#) are online.

We believe Summit students deserve small class sizes, state-of-the-art technology, great teachers, and an expansive curriculum. While this type of program is not inexpensive, Summit provides financial aid to eligible families in order to allow parents of all economic backgrounds to give their children the very best educational foundation. Another funding source for financial aid is through the Eastern Iowa School Tuition Organization (STO) for qualifying families.

How does a family apply to Summit?

All enrollment inquiries are now [online](#). Once a family has applied and been accepted into Summit, they will manage their enrollment through FACTS. When families complete the enrollment process, Summit must "finalize" the enrollment in FACTS. At that point FACTS will generate a payment schedule. The payments will be based on the gross amount of tuition and fees. Please keep in mind that amount will not include any ESA credit yet.

How do tuition payments work with an Education Savings Account (ESA)?

All students attending Summit in 2025-26 are eligible to receive an ESA, but **families must apply for their ESA**; it is not an automatic process. [Please visit the State of Iowa's Education Savings website for information and timelines.](#)

Summit expects that the ESA application period will open in mid-April, and will notify you when the application period opens. Families must apply for the ESA voucher through Odyssey (the company the state uses for program administration) and designate Summit Schools as the school their child will attend. *The application window closes June 30, 2025, and there are no exceptions or extensions.*

Once Summit is approved as your school, Summit will enter tuition and fee information for the first payment into Odyssey. **Families must then confirm the tuition and fees amount through Odyssey.** That is how Summit receives payment from the state.

Once Summit has been notified that we will receive the ESA funds for a family, Summit will apply a credit to the family's account. If families confirm in a prompt manner, it is expected that the credits will be applied in late July assuming the process with Odyssey has not changed from the previous two years. At that point FACTS will notify families that their payment schedule has been updated.

The process of entering tuition into Odyssey and then the subsequent confirmation by families will be repeated for the second ESA payment, usually in November. Family account credits can only be applied **after** the Odyssey confirmation by families.

It is the family's responsibility to apply for the ESA, to pay close attention to emails from Odyssey, and take required steps in a timely manner. ***Failure to secure ESA funds will result in the family being financially responsible for the full tuition payment to Summit.***

Thank you for choosing Summit Schools. If you have further questions, please email info@summitschools.org, or call 319-294-2036 when school is in session.