

# Financial Aid Available from Shiga Prefecture: Outline of the Financial Aid System Offered by Shiga Prefecture

Shiga Prefecture offers, under its ordinance, financial aid to students of any of the following categories of school, including senior high schools, who have difficulties in obtaining education thereat for economic reasons.

## ◆ Eligibility for Applicants

Eligibility for applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) An applicant shall be a student attending any of the following schools;</li> <li>(ii) His/her guardian, in the capacity of legal guardian or guardian of a minor, shall reside in Shiga Prefecture;</li> <li>(iii) He/she is a member of a household which falls into any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The household receives public assistance under the Public Assistance Act;</li> <li>(b) Any and every member of the household is exempt from municipal taxation under Article 295, paragraph 1 of the Local Tax Act or is exempt from the municipal inhabitant's tax in accordance with the relevant municipal ordinances under Article 323 of the Local Tax Act;</li> <li>(c) The household has an annual income equal to or less than 1.7 times the annual standard household financial requirement under the Public Assistance Act and which is deemed to be insufficient to support his/her school expenses;</li> </ul> </li> <li>(iv) He/she is not a recipient of any financial aid or similar support available under any other municipal ordinance or regulation, which includes the Living and Welfare Fund Loan (Education Support Funds), Loan for Single Mothers and Fathers and the Widow Welfare Fund (school expenses), financial aid for part-time and corresponding courses of education, financial aid offered by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO), etc.</li> </ul>
Target categories of schools/courses	Senior high school; later course of a secondary school; specialized school; specialized vocational high school; and advanced course of special training school

\* Financial aid projects for a student attending a college, university, junior college or special training school (apart from those in advanced courses) are carried out by JASSO. Any inquiries thereabout should be made to JASSO through the school in which the student is enrolled.

\* In the case wherein the guardian of a student who proposes to apply for a financial aid resides outside Shiga Prefecture, the student will become subject to the financial aid system operated by the prefecture wherein his/her guardian resides, and he/she is requested to make inquiries thereabout to such prefecture.

## ◆ Amount of Financial Aid and Duration and Conditions of the Financial Aid

Classification		Student commuting to school from home	Student commuting to school from a location other than home
Financial aid (on a monthly basis)	National or public school	18,000 yen	23,000 yen
	Private school	30,000 yen	35,000 yen
Fund for entry to a school* (for applications submitted in April of the first year of regular enrollment)	Base amount	50,000 yen (without distinguishing between national or public school and private school)	
	Additional aid for entry to a private school	An amount equal to the enrollment fee concerned (with a limit of not more than 150,000 yen)	
Funds for the purchase of computing devices (one time only)	Amount equivalent to the cost of purchasing a computing device (Up to 150,000 yen)		
Duration of Financial aid	The duration of the financial aid shall extend from the month following the time the student files an application for the financial aid (provided, however, that if he/she makes the application in April, such duration shall extend from the month of April) until the elapse of the standard period required for graduation from the school in which the student is enrolled or until the elapse of the period of his/her actual attendance at the school if he/she is deemed to have a compelling reason such as suffering from a disease, incurring an injury or becoming victim to a disaster, or the like; any application for a fund for entry to the school shall be acceptable only if it is made in April.		
Interest	The financial aid bear no interest.		
Timing for taking out a financial aid	Three times a year: (i) Upon undergoing a screening; (ii) Around the end of September; and (iii) Around the end of January; A fund for entry to a school shall be taken out together with the first installment of a financial aid.		
Cosigner	One (1) cosigner is required who, in principle, shall be the guardian of the applicant and shall be responsible for repaying the financial aid made under this financial aid system jointly with the loanee of the financial aid.		

\* Any application for a fund for entry to a school alone shall not be acceptable.

## ◆ Application Period and Application Method

Application period	As needed (provided, however, that any application for fund for entry to a school shall only be made in April; given that financial aid are subject to a budget, a flurry of applications therefor in excess of the budget may make further applications unacceptable or bring them to a halt.)
Application method	The applicant is required to fill in the application form for financial aid and to send it, together with necessary documents, to Shiga Prefectural Board of Education through the senior high school, etc., in which he/she is enrolled.

## ◆ Repayment of Financial Aid

Submission of a Bond for Financial Aid	Financial aid fund recipients must submit to the Board of Education a bond for Financial Aid jointly signed with their cosigner indicating the total sum of funds received, when the recipients graduate from a senior high school or the financial aid is discontinued. Recipients who fail to do this are required to repay the total sum of the student loan received thusly in full in a lump sum.
Repayment schedule	Financial aid must be repaid within a period not exceeding ten years starting from six months after the day of the recipient's graduation from senior high school or the termination of the financial aid, and in equal installments on a monthly, biannual or annual installments, according to the repayment schedule indicated in the signed bond for Financial Aid submitted by the recipient. The due dates are the last day of each month, the last days of July and November, and the last day of November of each year during the repayment period, respectively, for repayment on a monthly, biannual, and annual installments. The repayment may be made either through electronic transfer from the recipient's account or personal deposit at a banking institution. Bank transfers should be made on the 25th of the months when repayment is due.
In case of any delay in repayment	If a financial aid recipient fails to repay the student loan by the due date, he or she must pay a default interest, the amount of which shall be calculated by multiplying the amount due by a 10.75% per annum interest rate according to the number of days elapsed from the day following the due date until the actual date of repayment, and immediately repay the outstanding balance of the loan in a lump sum.

\* Any loanee who meets the following requirements may be given a grace period for repayment of the financial aid if he/she so requests:

- (i) He/she is attending a senior high school or university; or
- (ii) He/she is deemed to have significant difficulty in repaying the financial aid made under this financial aid system because he/she is suffering from a disease, has incurred an injury or has become victim to a disaster, or for any other compelling reason.

◆ Example of Preliminary Calculation of Monthly Financial Aid Amount and Corresponding Repayment Amount

Classification (No. of months for which a financial aid is made)	With or without a Funds for the purchase of computing devices	With or without a fund for entry to school	Commu- tation to school	Amount of monthly financial aid (in yen)	Amount of fund for entry to school (in yen)	Amount of funds for the purchase of computing devices(in yen)	Total amount of financial aid (in yen)	Amount of monthly installment for repayment (in yen)	Number of scheduled repayments (in years and months involved in repayment)
National or public school (36 months)	With	With	From home	18,000	50,000	150,000	848,000	7,100 3,100 (for the final installment)	120 (10 years)
			From outside home	23,000	50,000	150,000	1,028,000	8,600 4,600 (for the final installment)	120 (10 years)
		Without	From home	18,000	—	150,000	798,000	6,800 2,400 (for the final installment)	118 (9 years and 10 months)
			From outside home	23,000	—	150,000	978,000	8,200 2,200 (for the final installment)	120 (10 years)
	Without	With	From home	18,000	50,000	—	698,000	6,000 2,000 (for the final installment)	117 (9 years and 9 months)
			From outside home	23,000	50,000	—	878,000	7,400 4,800 (for the final installment)	119 (9 years and 11 months)
		Without	From home	18,000	—	—	648,000	5,400	120 (10 years)
			From outside home	23,000	—	—	828,000	6,900	120 (10 years)
Private school (36 months)	With	With	From home	30,000	200,000	150,000	1,430,000	12,000 14,000 (for the final installment)	119 (9 years and 11 months)
			From outside home	35,000	200,000	150,000	1,610,000	13,400 15,400 (for the final installment)	120 (10 years)
		Without	From home	30,000	—	150,000	1,230,000	10,300 4,300 (for the final installment)	120 (10 years)
			From outside home	35,000	—	150,000	1,410,000	11,800 5,800 (for the final installment)	120 (10 years)
	Without	With	From home	30,000	200,000	—	1,280,000	10,700 6,700 (for the final installment)	120 (10 years)
			From outside home	35,000	200,000	—	1,460,000	12,200 8,200 (for the final installment)	120 (10 years)
		Without	From home	30,000	—	—	1,080,000	9,000	120 (10 years)
			From outside home	35,000	—	—	1,260,000	10,500	120 (10 years)
Funds for the purchase of computing devices				—	—	150,000	150,000	1,300 1,800 (for the final installment)	115 (9 years and 7 months)

• The figure for the amount of fund for entry to a private school was estimated based on the base amount of 50,000 yen plus an additional aid for entry to a private school of 150,000 yen; in actuality, the additional aid for entry to a private school shall be equal to the amount of the enrollment fee involved in entry to the private school (with a limit of not more than 150,000 yen).

\* Funding for the purchase of computing devices is estimated at 150,000 yen maximum.

\* The number of months for which financial aid is granted was assumed to be 36 months, which an ordinary student would need from the entry to a school until graduation therefrom.

◆ Points of Attention

- (i) It is important to note that an offer of financial aid available from Shiga Prefecture constitutes a financial aid to a student, and that the student is obligated to repay the entire amount of financial aid after the expiration of the duration of the financial aid. A prospective applicant for financial aid available from Shiga Prefecture is strongly encouraged to take due account of the time when he/she will be faced with the repayment thereof. Financial aid thus repaid will constitute the resource for financial aid to be loaned to his/her junior students.
- (ii) An applicant will be notified of the result of screening within about two (2) months of the date of application through the senior high school, in which he/she is enrolled, provided, however, that if any necessary document is separately submitted at a later date, or if there is any error or deficiency in the completed application or accompanying documents, that he/she will only be notified of the result of screening in the order of occurrence of screening, which will have to wait until a complete set of application documents becomes available after all submissions and/or correction of necessary submissions have been made.
- (iii) Any student who wishes for the continuation of financial aid is required to make an application therefor on an annual basis. However, his/her making an application in such manner, in no way gives assurance that the financial aid to him/her will continue until his/her graduation from the school, as determination of the acceptability of continuance of the financial aid to him/her would involve confirming whether or not eligibility for such financial aid is met on an annual basis.
- (iv) Given that financial aid available from Shiga Prefecture are subject to a budget, a flurry of applications therefore in excess of the budget may make further applications unacceptable or bring them to a halt.

◆ Inquiry

Any inquiry should be made to the school in which the relevant student is enrolled.