

Application for Admissions

Compass School



PO Box 177, Westminster Station, Vermont 05159

www.compass-school.org

(802) 463-2525



COMPASS SCHOOL

Admissions Policy

At Compass School, we embrace and seek to serve the diversity of individuals in our community. We integrate rigorous academic achievement with teaching to the whole person. Within a context of commonly held high expectations for all students, we know every student well and strive to address individual learning styles. We believe in success for every student through diverse and authentic opportunities for learning, growth, and leadership.

Application to Compass School shall be open to students of all academic levels. Compass School retains the right to admit students upon recommendation of the admissions committee. Admissions will be based on application materials received and space available. Acceptance is conditional on the school's ability to provide an appropriate program for the applicant.

Compass School does not discriminate against any applicant on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability or national origin.

A complete application includes:

- Application Fee of \$50.00 (non-refundable)
- Student Questionnaire
- Student Handwritten Essays
- Parent Questionnaire and Observation Sheet
- Student Learning Policy
- Parental Permission for Release of Records: Submitted to school on _____ (date) *or*
 In application materials for Compass to submit: _____ (school name/fax)
- Teacher Reference #1 Name: _____
- Teacher Reference #2 Name: _____
- Copy of current IEP or other learning plan (if applicable)
- Homeschooler's Course Records or other documentation to support requested grade placement (if applicable)
- School Visit: Date: _____

We encourage you to apply as early as possible to secure a placement at Compass School. Our admissions committee will consider applications once all application materials are provided and respond to applicants within 8 weeks. We encourage you to submit application materials by the first Friday in March as grades can fill up early.



COMPASS SCHOOL

Applying

Compass School offers rolling admission. Once all application and supporting materials have been received, they are reviewed by the Admissions Committee to determine whether Compass School's program is appropriate to support the educational needs of the applicant. A complete application must be received before a decision can be made on any applicant. Applicants will be notified within 8 weeks. *If any portion of the application proves prohibitive, please contact the admissions office. We are here to support you in this process.*

The recommended application deadline is the first Friday in March. As grades may fill quickly, we encourage prospective students to submit an application as early as possible.

Visiting the School

We expect all applicants to visit Compass for a day to shadow a current student as part of the application process. This allows prospective students to attend classes, lunch, and interact in the community to get a feel for the school. Visits are typically scheduled for Tuesday or Thursdays from 8:25-2:10. Visiting students will be expected to respect school rules and engage in the community for the day. This day tends to be a positive experience for the prospective student and provides a good sense of school life. Other times can be arranged, if needed. Please contact admissions directly to schedule your visit at (802) 463-2517.

Parents can schedule a meeting with the admissions office to tour the school and learn more about the program. These appointments are typically scheduled for 8:30am or 1:45pm on the day of the scheduled visit, though other arrangements can be made.

Financial Aid

Compass awards financial aid based on family need and is committed to supporting a diverse community of learners. Applicants seeking financial aid need to submit an application to PSAS (Private School Aid Service www.psas.org). Financial Aid applications are available in the Compass School admissions office. In order to be considered for first round/priority financial aid, financial aid applications **must be postmarked no later than February 15**. Financial aid is distributed on a first come, first serve basis. It is important to start the application process as early as possible. After the February deadline, aid requests will be considered if funds remain available.

Financial Information

Application Fee: \$50 (non-refundable)

Tuition: Set as the statewide public school average: \$12,461 for 2012-2013, with a typical annual increase of approximately 5%

Upon acceptance, a non-refundable deposit of \$100 is due for town paid tuition and \$500 for parent paid tuition. This deposit is put into the student's activities account to pay for field trips, lunches, etc.

Other Fees

Tuition Insurance: 2% of tuition (payable prior to the start of school)

Winter Sports Fee: \$35

Technology Fee: \$50

Spring All-School Trip: \$120 - \$180 (per person)

Lunch & Breakfast: \$2.00 Breakfast, \$3.75 Lunch (free & reduced for qualified families)

Support Services: Dependent upon student need & arrangement with family

Please contact Betsy Jaffe, Director of Admissions and Development, with questions. Betsy can be reached directly at 802-463-2517 or betsy@compass-school.org. She will be happy to help you or to direct you to someone who can.



COMPASS SCHOOL

Student Questionnaire

Name of Applicant _____ Date _____

Note to parents and students: We want to understand our students' preferences, strengths and challenges. We are interested in the student's *ideas* and would like the student to complete this application in his/her own handwriting. If additional space is necessary, attach a separate piece of paper. Thank you.

Please list three words or phrases that you might use to describe yourself.

As a Person _____

As a Student _____

Please list two or three areas of growth for you — things you would like to improve.

Personal _____

Academic _____

For 7-8th grade prospects, please select two of the below questions and handwrite your answer on a separate piece of paper. Your answers should be a minimum of 3 paragraphs. For 9-12th grade prospects, please select three of the below questions and handwrite your answer on a separate piece of paper. Your answers should be a minimum of 3 paragraphs each.

1. Describe a situation in school where you have struggled and how you tried to resolve this issue. Were you successful? Please explain why or why not.
2. Describe yourself to your classmates. You may use any method to convey your message (e.g. words, illustrations). Feel free to be creative.
3. Why do you want to attend Compass School?
4. Describe your family and the role you play in it.
5. Write about something that you have enjoyed learning in the past. Be sure to include specific examples to describe what made it a particularly successful experience.
6. If you could eat lunch with any person alive or deceased, who would it be and why?

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____



COMPASS SCHOOL

Parent Questionnaire

Name of Applicant _____ Male Female

Date of Birth _____ Application _____ Applying for Grade _____

Student's Residence _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Student's Mailing Address (if different) _____

Present School _____

Street Address _____ Town _____ Zip Code _____

School Telephone _____ Name of Principal _____

Previous Schools (Please be sure to list name, town, and years attended) _____

Family/Guardian Information: May we share contact information when fielding requests for carpooling? Yes No

For separated/divorced families, Compass assumes shared financial responsibility for tuition unless documentation states otherwise. If you are attaching additional information, please check here .

Mother/Guardian:	Father/Guardian:
Address:	Address:
Home phone:	Home phone:
Work/Cell phone:	Work/Cell phone:
Email:	Email:
Name, Age, and School of Siblings:	

As parent involvement is vital to student success, we strongly encourage your participation in the activities at Compass School. Describe an area of expertise or a skill you have that you would be willing to share with the school, with an individual student or a group of students. Please feel free to use the back of this sheet.



COMPASS SCHOOL

Parent Observations and Comments

Your Name _____ Student Name _____

1. What do you hope your child will gain from his/her experience at Compass School?

2. What is your child's greatest strength as a student and their greatest challenge?

3. What is his/her most outstanding personal characteristic?

4. Has he/she ever been identified for special education? Yes No
If so, please include a copy of the IEP.

5. Has the student ever been expelled or suspended from school? Yes No
If yes, explain:

6. Do you anticipate a need for Compass School Academic Support Services (see Academic Support Services insert)?
 Yes No If yes, explain:

7. Please indicate *your* view of your child's abilities and skills:

	Above Average		Average		Below Average	
Math (describe level: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Writing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reading	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual Work Habits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Behavior/Social Skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self-direction/Responsibility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Motivation for Learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Involvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Financial Information

Who is responsible for tuition payments? _____

Please indicate town where the student resides: _____

Are you expecting town paid tuition? Yes No

Do you want to apply for financial aid? Yes No

Can we provide you with a PSAS Financial Aid form? Yes No

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____



COMPASS SCHOOL

Teacher Reference

References may be submitted online at: <http://www.compass-school.org/admissions>

Name of Teacher _____ Subject _____

School Name _____ Phone/Email _____

Compass School seeks to admit a wide range of students regardless of academic ability. Your honest appraisal of this student helps us understand how we can best meet student needs in our planning. We thank you in advance for your help.

Name of Applicant _____ Grade _____

School _____ How long have you known applicant? _____

Address _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Please indicate *your* view of the child's abilities and skills:

	Above Average		Average		Below Average	
Math (describe level: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Writing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Motivation for Learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Involvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please discuss this student's strengths and weaknesses.

Learning Strengths:

Learning Weaknesses:

Comments:

This student is currently receiving (please check all that apply):

Special Education 504 Plan Counseling OT/PT Other Services

Describe (please use other side for additional comments):

Please send to: Betsy Jaffe, Director of Admissions, Compass School, P.O. Box 177, Westminster Station, VT 05159-0177
betsy@compass-school.org, Fax: 802-463-2520, Direct Phone: 802-463-2517



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Teacher Reference

References may be submitted online at: <http://www.compass-school.org/admissions>

Name of Teacher _____ Subject _____

School Name _____ Phone/Email _____

Compass School seeks to admit a wide range of students regardless of academic ability. Your honest appraisal of this student helps us understand how we can best meet student needs in our planning. We thank you in advance for your help.

Name of Applicant _____ Grade _____

School _____ How long have you known applicant? _____

Address _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Please indicate *your* view of the child's abilities and skills:

	Above Average		Average		Below Average	
Math (describe level: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Motivation for Learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Involvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please discuss this student's strengths and challenges.

Learning Strengths:

Learning challenges:

Comments:

This student is currently receiving (please check all that apply):

Special Education 504 Plan Counseling OT/PT Other Services

Describe (please use other side for additional comments):

Please send to:

Betsy Jaffe, Director of Admissions, Compass School, P.O. Box 177, Westminster Station, VT 05159-0177
betsy@compass-school.org, Fax: 802-463-2520, Direct Phone: 802-463-2517



COMPASS SCHOOL

PARENTAL PERMISSION FOR RELEASE OF RECORDS

This form must be given to the Registrar at the school where the student is currently attending.

Compass School is required to obtain written consent from the parent or eligible student before personally identifiable information from a student's education records is disclosed to any party other than those who are permitted access by law. Consent is also required before personally identifiable information is used for any other purpose than to aid in the planning for and provision of appropriate educational services to the student. If the student has received special education or Title I services in the last 2 years prior to admission, Compass School would like to have these records available.

Date _____

Applicant's Name _____

Town of Legal Residence _____

To the Registrar:

This student is applying for admission to Compass School. Please send us a transcript of student academic records for the past three years, including any standardized test scores that are available.

I hereby give my permission to _____ School to release the records of (name of student) _____ to Compass School in Westminster, VT.

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian _____ Date _____

Comments:

Please send records to:
Betsy Jaffe, Director of Admissions
Compass School
P.O. Box 177
Westminster Station, VT 05159-0177
betsy@compass-school.org
Fax: 802-463-2520
Direct Phone: 802-463-2517



COMPASS SCHOOL

Student Learning Policy

There are a number of factors that will ensure your success at Compass School. An interested learner commits him or herself in the following ways:

1. Respect for self, others, the environment and the learning process

The bottom line at Compass School is RESPECT. Every word and action of Compass School students should be considerate of other people and things. This means using polite language, a helpful attitude, and a regard for property (your property, the school's property and the property of others).

2. Positive attitude towards learning

A positive attitude means trying new things, setting high expectations for yourself, and becoming involved in your studies. This may not always come easily. Compass School students must be willing to make the extra effort that these require.

3. Full and active participation in the classroom

Full and active participation may mean listening, talking, doing, acting, creating, reading, laughing, singing, thinking, drawing, searching or anything else that involves you in the learning process in your classroom at that moment. The important thing is that you are actively present, in mind, body and spirit, ready to learn and share what you are learning with others.

4. Being prepared for class

Being prepared for class means arriving *before* class begins, being ready to start, having everything you need with you and completing your homework. You cannot take advantage of what Compass School has to offer if you are not consistently prepared for class in all of these ways.

I have read the learning policy and I am committed to putting forth my best effort and I agree to the above as a student at Compass School.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Caregiver's Signature: _____ Date: _____



COMPASS SCHOOL

Compass School Academic Support Services

Compass School is solely licensed to provide support services, as well as specialized instruction, to students with Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD), as defined by the State of Vermont Department of Education. Compass School is not licensed to accept placement of students outside of this category.

What is a Specific Learning Disability (SLD)? As defined by the Vermont State Department of Education: A specific learning disability means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, in which the disorder may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, or do mathematical calculations. A specific learning disability must have an adverse effect on achievement in one or more of the following basic skill areas:

- Oral expression
- Listening comprehension
- Written expression
- Basic reading
- Reading fluency
- Reading comprehension
- Mathematics calculation
- Mathematics reasoning

If a student with a SLD is accepted, he or she will require additional support to meet academic expectations. The cost of these services is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. In addition, if the enrolled student's educational team determines additional support is necessary for meeting and maintaining academic expectations, it is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to provide these services and pay for them. We will work with families on an individual basis to arrange for additional support services.

Compass School Academic Support Services

- Level I: Small group tutorial for one x 90 minute period per week.
- Level II: Specialized instruction/ individual tutorial for one x 90 minute period per week.
- Level III: Small group tutorial for 240 minutes per week. Tutorial will take place of a foreign language for those students with FL waivers.
- Level IV: Small group tutorial for 240 minutes per week. Tutorial will take place of a foreign language for those students with FL waivers. Also includes in-class support as needed during targeted academic blocks.

Compass School maintains the right to assess a fee for all students designated with a 504, IEP or other Specific Learning Plan (SLP) in accordance with the case management expectations and student support services needed.

If you have any interest or questions regarding these services or associated costs, please contact the Director of Support Services at Compass School, Janet Van Alstyn (janet@compass-school.org).