

# Compass School

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Westminster, Vermont



## **Application for Admission**



# COMPASS SCHOOL

## Admissions Policy

At Compass School, we embrace and seek to serve as full a range as possible of 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 *all* students and we create diverse and authentic opportunities for learning, growth and leadership for everyone.

Our work has a dual purpose: while we serve the families in our region, we also seek to affect the greater educational world by providing a successful model for public schooling.

It is a priority of Compass School that students demonstrate respect for all members of the Compass community at all times. Compass School brings together individuals from a broad range backgrounds. As such, the size and make-up of our community requires the commitment and willingness of each student to participate and contribute positively.

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. The Director of Compass School has the sole and final discretion in the recommendation of the Admissions Committee. Admissions will be based on all application materials received and will be on a space available basis. Acceptance and continued education are conditional on the school's ability to provide an appropriate program within the framework of the school's resources.

*Compass School shall 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
- Parent Questionnaire and Data Sheet
- Student Admission Agreement
- Transcript and school records from current school
- Teacher Reference #1
- Teacher Reference #2
- Copy of current IEP or other learning plan (if applicable)
- Homeschooler's Course Records or other documentation to support requested grade placement (if applicable)
- Interview and visit

**We encourage you to apply as early as possible to secure a placement at Compass School. Consideration will be given once all application materials are provided. After the March 4, 2011 deadline, applications will be considered on a space-available basis.**



# COMPASS SCHOOL

## Admissions Process

Application materials are available online at: <http://compass-school.org/admissions>

### Applying

Compass School has a rolling admissions process during the academic year. We will consider and approve applications as they are completed. However, as grades may fill quickly, we encourage prospective students to submit your application as early as possible.

The application deadline for the 2010-11 school year is Friday, March 4, 2011. After this deadline, applications will be considered on a space available basis.

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.

### Visiting the School

We encourage parents and students to visit Compass School during the school day or attend one of our Open House presentations to better acquaint themselves with the school community before or during the application process.

Our regularly scheduled visitation days are 2nd and 4th Mondays (for grades 9-12) and Tuesdays (for grades 7-8), from 9:00am – 12:00 noon, by appointment. For other times, you can contact admissions directly at (802) 463-2525, or e-mail: [admissions@compass-school.org](mailto:admissions@compass-school.org).

### Financial Aid

Applicants seeking financial aid need to submit an application to PSAS (Private School Aid Service [www.psas.org](http://www.psas.org)). Financial Aid applications are available at Compass School Admissions. In order to be considered for financial aid, an application must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2010. Financial aid is distributed on a first come, first serve basis. It is important to start the application process as early as possible.

### Financial Information

Application Fee: \$50 (non-refundable)

Tuition: Set as the statewide public school average: \$11,576 for 2009-2010. Typical annual increase of approximately 5%

(Upon acceptance) Non-Refundable Deposit: \$100 (town paid tuition)

\$500 (parent paid tuition)

\* Families of town paid tuition must make the tuition deposit. These monies will be applied towards tuition insurance and/or other fees.

### Other Fees

Support Services: Dependent upon student need & arrangement with family

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

Winter Sports Fee: \$35 - \$45

Technology Fee: \$50 for PC and \$25 for Mac to connect to Compass School network

Spring All-School Trip: \$150 - \$200 (per person)

11<sup>th</sup> Grade International Trip: Costs determined by trip details and fundraising support

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

website: [www.compass-school.org](http://www.compass-school.org)

*Compass School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, or national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational, admissions, financial aid policies or in any other programs administered by the School.*



# COMPASS SCHOOL

## Application Materials

We welcome online applications at: <http://compass-school.org/admissions>

### 1. **Student Questionnaire:**

The student questionnaire must be *hand-written* by each student applicant. Please give careful consideration to providing a minimum of 200 words and as much information as you feel necessary. These answers provide an initial glimpse of the student and help Compass School understand the specific needs and goals of each individual.

### 2. **Parent Questionnaire:**

The Parent Questionnaire is completed by the caregiver of each applicant. These forms are useful in determining the goals and expectations of the caregiver. They are also a source of contact information for school records.

### 3. **Student Admission Agreement:**

This agreement, signed by both the parent/caregiver and student is recognition of the commitment the student is willing to make towards their learning experience at Compass School.

### 4. **Teacher Recommendations:**

There are two (2) recommendation forms. Compass School encourages students to select teachers who would provide the most objective and valuable information regarding the student's particular learning needs and individual learning style. Applicants can also invite recommenders to complete reference forms online.

### 5. **Request for Records:**

This request can be delivered directly to the school by the applicant's caregivers. These will be sent directly by the school to Compass School Admissions. All records are kept strictly confidential.

### 6. **Financial Aid:**

This form is available upon request. Compass School allocates limited financial aid, based on need, as long as budgeted funds are available. You must obtain the form from the office and apply before **February 11, 2011**. Currently enrolled students who are applying for financial aid and are in good standing will receive first consideration.



# COMPASS SCHOOL

## Student Questionnaire

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Note to Parents and Students:** We want to understand our students' preferences, strengths and challenges, so that we can take this into account as we plan our programs. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe a strength or talent that you have and how you would like to develop this further.
2. Describe a situation in school where you have struggled and how you tried to resolve this issue.
3. What do you think you can offer the Compass School community?

**On a separate piece of paper, please answer the following questions:**

4. Describe yourself to your classmates. You may use any method to convey your message (e.g. words, illustrations). Feel free to be creative. (minimum 100 words)
5. Describe your favorite activities inside or outside of school. (minimum 100 words)
6. 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. (minimum 100 words)

**Applicant Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

*Compass School shall not discriminate against any applicant on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability or national origin in the administration of admissions, educational or financial aid policies, or in any other programs administered by the school.*



# COMPASS SCHOOL

## Parent Questionnaire

**Name of Applicant** \_\_\_\_\_ Male Female

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Application Date \_\_\_\_\_ Applying for Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Mailing Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Present School:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: Street \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

School Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Guidance Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

### Family/Guardian Information:

Mother/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Father/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Step-parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Step-parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Names & Ages of Siblings: \_\_\_\_\_

With whom does the applicant live? \_\_\_\_\_

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 an individual student or a group of students.

Do you have an interest or a skill in areas that could contribute to the operation of the school?

**Parent Observations and Comments** (use additional paper if necessary):

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

2. What three words come to mind when describing your son/daughter:

As a person: \_\_\_\_\_

As a student: \_\_\_\_\_

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:

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

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include a non-refundable application fee of \$50.00 with these forms to:**

**Compass School Admissions  
P.O. Box 177  
Westminster Station, VT 05159-0177**



# COMPASS SCHOOL

## Teacher Reference

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

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Subject \_\_\_\_\_

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: _____ ) | _____         | _____   | _____         |
| Writing                       | _____         | _____   | _____         |
| Reading                       | _____         | _____   | _____         |
| Individual Work Habits        | _____         | _____   | _____         |
| Behavior/Social Skills        | _____         | _____   | _____         |
| Self-direction/Responsibility | _____         | _____   | _____         |
| Motivation for Learning       | _____         | _____   | _____         |
| Community Involvement         | _____         | _____   | _____         |

### **Please discuss this student's strengths and weaknesses.**

Learning Strengths:

Learning Weaknesses:

Comments:

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

1. Special Education
2. 504 Plan
3. Counseling
4. OT/PT
5. Other Services. Describe:

**Please fax/mail this form to Compass School.**



# COMPASS SCHOOL

## Teacher Reference

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

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Subject \_\_\_\_\_

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: _____ ) | _____         | _____   | _____         |
| Writing                       | _____         | _____   | _____         |
| Reading                       | _____         | _____   | _____         |
| Individual Work Habits        | _____         | _____   | _____         |
| Behavior/Social Skills        | _____         | _____   | _____         |
| Self-direction/Responsibility | _____         | _____   | _____         |
| Motivation for Learning       | _____         | _____   | _____         |
| Community Involvement         | _____         | _____   | _____         |

### **Please discuss this student's strengths and weaknesses.**

Learning Strengths:

Learning Weaknesses:

Comments:

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

1. Special Education
2. 504 Plan
3. Counseling
4. OT/PT
5. Other Services. Describe:

**Please fax/mail this form to Compass School.**



**COMPASS SCHOOL**

## **PARENTAL PERMISSION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

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:

Compass School  
P.O. Box 177  
Westminster Station, VT 05159-0177



# COMPASS SCHOOL

## Student Admission Agreement

2010-2011

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, which 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 the 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 (1:2) for one x 90 minute period per week.
- Level II:** Specialized instruction/ individual tutorial (1:1) for one x 90 minute period per week.
- Level III:** Small group tutorial (1:3) for 240 minutes per week. Tutorial will take place of a foreign language for those students with FL waivers.
- Level IV:** Small group tutorial (1:3) for 240 minutes per week. Tutorial will take place of a foreign language for those students with FL waivers. Also includes in-class direct instructional/organization assistance as needed (1:1) 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) based on a sliding scale and 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 Alstyne ([janet@compass-school.org](mailto:janet@compass-school.org)).