

Financial Aid Program

In China, there are areas where primary/middle school students drop out of schools because their families face extreme financial hardship. To help these students return to the classrooms, OCEF distributes financial aid to help students pay for books, fees, and other expenses.

Since the inception of the OCEF in 1992, OCEF has distributed **over 14,000 financial aid packages**. Each package supports one student for one semester.

In 2005, OCEF made several adjustments to its financial aid programs in response to the Chinese government's 2-1 policy (eliminating two fees and subsidizing boarding expenses). See below.

Procedures

➤ **Where do we operate?** OCEF operates in the poorest rural regions of China. 80% of these regions are on the government's list of most impoverished areas.

➤ **Who do we support?** Students from families with extremely low income.

➤ **How much does it cost?**

Each primary school student receives \$39/year. Each middle school student receives \$50/year.

➤ **Operation Procedures**

Application: Students fill out application and submit with affidavit of low-income, provided by school representatives or local community.

Verification: OCEF coordinators verify the applications and send the forms to OCEF board and financial aid group for review and approval.

Fund Release: Financial aid is delivered to students on a ceremony hosted by the school. As is the custom in China, name of students supported are posted so that the selection of students is transparent to the local public.

Inspection: OCEF sends inspectors to validate the use of funds by students and schools. Inspection results feed into next year's decision-making process.