



A Community of Learners

Information Item: FY20 Student Fees

TO: School Board
Dr. Trisha Kocanda, Superintendent

FROM: Brad Goldstein, CFO

February 26, 2019

Overview & Background

Student fees are an important source of revenue for public school districts. The fees are evaluated and adjusted annually. The evaluation considers the benefit, performance, and economics of the related programs and services. Benchmarking of similar fees charged by other surrounding districts is also part of the process.

This memo provides an overview and analysis of each student fee category and an administrative recommendation for the fee levels for FY20. The Board will have an opportunity to discuss the various fees at the February 26, 2019, meeting. Any recommended changes to these fees can be discussed if needed, and the Board will be brought a final recommendation at March 19, 2019, meeting. Any extension of approval beyond that meeting may impact the timing of registration and payment of fees. Food service fees will be updated at that time, as we are awaiting our final proposal from Arbor.

For reference purposes, a schedule of the current FY19 fee is attached to this memo and listed below.

2018-2019 Student Fees Activity Fees (Required)

Kindergarten	\$108
Grades 1-3	\$184
Grade 4	\$260
Grades 5-6	\$191
Grades 7-8	\$191

Activity Fees (Optional)

Bus Fee

Two-Way	\$520, if paid by 6/29/18
Two-Way	\$620, if paid after 6/29/18
One-Way	\$300, if paid by 6/29/18
One-Way	\$350, if paid after 6/29/18

After-School Sports/Clubs

Elementary Schools	\$57 per semester
Skokie School	\$67 per semester
Skokie Climbing Club	\$62 per semester

Carleton Washburne School Athletics

Volleyball	\$225
Basketball	\$425
Basketball Practice Squad	\$200
Cross Country	\$200
Track and Field	\$200
Intramural Basketball	\$135

MLI Device Coverage

Grades 5-8	\$25
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On Deck!

	Before School	After School
5 days per week	\$237	\$420
4 days per week	\$226	\$360
3 days per week	\$208	\$302
2 days per week	\$185	\$231
Voucher	\$116	\$155

FY20 Fee Recommendations & Rationale

Activity Fees

Background

Activity fees are used at the discretion of the principals to benefit students in a variety of ways. For example, funds are used to support field trip entrance fee and transportation costs, student planners, magazine subscriptions for Scholastic and Time, outdoor education experiences, class parties, student locks, and some instructional supplies.

These fees have been sufficient to cover related expenses and with updated cost allocations approximate a breakeven position. When compared to other New Trier feeder schools with activity fees, the District's fee falls within a 10% range of other Districts, other than kindergarten, where we are on the low end. In consideration of the various clubs and general activities and related costs offered by the District, the FY20 activity fees increase remains primarily within the benchmarked township range of fees. The Table below summarizes the recommended fee changes.

Grade Level	FY19 Actual	FY20 Proposed	FY19 Township Avg	FY19 Township Low
Kindergarten	\$108	\$125	\$141	\$100
Grades 1-3	\$184	\$190	\$171	\$106-125
Grade 4*	\$260	\$275	\$167	\$106
Grades 5-6	\$191	\$200	\$208	\$148-165
Grades 7-8	\$191	\$200	\$226	\$190

*The higher rate for 4th grade relates to the cost of an outdoor education program for fourth graders.

Recommendation

For FY20, Administration recommends that activity fees be increased as shown above.

Transportation Fees

Background

The philosophy regarding transportation fees were determined in 2010 - "transportation fees should be charged so that the financial liability of the District is limited to less than half of the actual cost" - with a target recovery of 60%. A historic five-year analysis of transportation fees shows that cost recovery through fees has been an average of approximately 44.8%.

Transportation fees have been benchmarked against other New Trier feeder districts with the following results;

Categories	Recommend	Current Dist. 36	FY19 Township High	FY19 Township Avg
Two-Way before deadline	\$535	\$520	\$575	\$525
Two-Way after deadline	\$635	\$620	\$675	\$600
One-Way before deadline	\$310	\$300	\$333	\$278

One-Way after deadline	\$360	\$350	\$383	\$336
Two-Way late fee	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$75
One-Way late fee	\$50	\$50	\$75	\$58

The recommended two-way fee increase for FY20 is based on the 3.00% cost increase for regular transportation received per the bid process in FY18 completed by the District, plus 0-1% rounding to move closer to the operational performance target for transportation. The overall average increase for the 2 on-time payment options is 3.58%, and range from 2.85% to 3.80%. The late fees provide a reasonable operational, yet a small financial benefit since approximately 1% of families are late in paying. With the recommended fee increase and the 3% increase in transportation rates from our bus company, it is projected that a 54.1% recovery rate will be achieved, exclusive of the additional cost related to EDK. This would be the slightly less than the 57.3% achieved last year, but is primarily driven by the increase in special education transportation.

Recommendation

The Recommendation is that the Board approve the FY20 transportation fees and the average 3.58% increase in transportation rates as recommended by Administration.

After School Sports/Clubs

Background

These fees were established by the District to support activities at the three elementary schools and Skokie School. These activities are sponsored by teachers who are paid a pay rate based on the negotiated agreement with the Winnetka Education Association. The intent is to have the fees charged to cover the cost of the program.

The recommend fees for FY20 are based on achieving a breakeven point as previously calculated. The base increase in fees is based on the increase of CPI for the year plus a 1% factor for estimated supply costs. The CPI factor is the same factor used for contractual increases in the related costs of 2.1%. The table below summarizes the recommended fee changes.

Schools	FY19 Actual	FY20 Proposed
Elementary	\$57 per semester	\$59 per semester
Skokie	\$67 per semester	\$69 per semester
Skokie; climbing club	\$62 per session	\$64 per session

Recommendation

The recommendation is to approve the FY20 after school sports/club fees as proposed by Administration.

Carleton Washburne School Athletics

Background

Participation fees are assessed for the school's optional athletic programs. The fees cover the cost of coaches, transportation to games, scorekeepers, uniforms, supplies and supervision. Since most other competing schools have only one gym and Washburne generally has two traveling teams, two buses are needed to go to two different schools versus one bus to one school. This adds to the comparative costs of the traveling programs.

When compared to other New Trier feeder schools District athletic fees have been higher than the others historically. In FY 2018, Administration restructured fees so that the fee levels related to the high end of the benchmarked fees but remained competitive with surrounding districts. Last year the Board asked the Administration to leave fees flat. This has resulted in considerable reductions in the cost of participation in team sports and reasonable year-on-year increases in other athletic programs. Adjustments were made in consideration of the additional transportation factor. With the proposed fee levels, Administration believes the aggregate program can operate at a breakeven with some additional cost management. After evaluating the programs the proposed FY20 fee increases range from no increase to 4.44%, and are based on cost factors related to each program. These programs that are seeing increases are the costliest programs to run, and warrant a larger increase. In the interest of cost containment, Administration recommends these minimal increases to offset costs related to these programs.

The following chart provides comparative fee analysis by athletic offering

Sport	FY19 Actual	FY20 Proposed	FY19 Township High	FY19 Township Avg
Basketball	\$425	\$435	\$425	\$403
Volleyball	\$225	\$235	\$225	\$225
Basketball Practice	\$200	\$200	n/a	n/a
Cross Country	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$120
Track & Field	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$120
Intramural Basketball	\$135	\$135	n/a	n/a

Recommendation

The recommendation is to approve the FY 20 Carleton Washburne School Athletic fees as proposed by Administration.

Before/After School Program (On Deck)

Background

This is a tuition-based optional program. Tuition is based on the program selected plus a \$60.00 annual non-refundable registration fee. There is a multiple child tuition discount of 10% for two children and a 25% discount for three or more children. The fee includes transportation to and from the program.

Rates are based on the number of days in the program. Vouchers provide families in need of occasional care an opportunity to avail themselves of the program for up to five visits. Fees were increased 3% for FY19. We have seen a large increase in use of the program over the past few years, and in order to staff this program, an increase was given to the staff to run this program with appropriate staffing ratios. We have also moved the program to The Skokie School, which has received great feedback from the staff and parents, as it provides a much better space for the students.

The increase is recommended to cover the increased use of the program with the implementation of extended day kindergarten and the need for more supplies and additional staff. The fee increases averages 3.00%. At the proposed fee level, the projected results of the program are self-sustaining. Accordingly, Administration recommends monthly fees for FY20 at the following amounts.

FY20 Proposed

Options	Before School	After School
5 days per week	\$244	\$433
4 days per week	\$233	\$371
3 days per week	\$214	\$311
2 days per week	\$191	\$238
Voucher	\$119	\$160

FY19 Actual

Options	Before School	After School
5 days per week	\$237	\$420
4 days per week	\$226	\$360
3 days per week	\$208	\$302
2 days per week	\$185	\$231
Voucher	\$116	\$155

Recommendation

The recommendation is to approve the FY20 On Deck fees as proposed by Administration.

EDK Extended Play Program

Background

The extended day kindergarten (EDK) program was implemented in FY18. The design of the program includes a fee based extended play program at the school that is available for parents to use for their children from 2:10 pm when the regular program ends until the regular school day ends. The costs associated with this program are related to the Classroom Associates that run this program as part of their daily duties. The proposed increase of 4.1% corresponds to the contractual increase for this staff.

For the 2019-2020 school year, administration recommends the following fee schedule for the EDK Extended Play Program.

EDK Extended Play Proposed FY20

5 days per week	\$1,415
4 days per week	\$1,300
3 days per week	\$1,200
2 days per week	\$1,090
1 day per week	\$980

EDK Extended Play Actual FY19

5 days per week	\$1,360
4 days per week	\$1,255
3 days per week	\$1,150
2 days per week	\$1,045
1 day per week	\$940

Recommendation

The recommendation is to approve the FY20 Extended Play fees as proposed by Administration.

Attachments

[Proposed Student Fees 2019-2020](#)