SCHOOL DISTRICT 197
West St. Paul + Mendota Heights + Eagan Area

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Lisa Grathen, Director of Community Education

DATE: November 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Proposed School Age Care Fee Increases for 2027-2028 and 2028-2029

BACKGROUND

The School Age Care (SAC) program is a fee-based program. The administration recommends a 3% increase for the next two school years to address inflation in operating expenses. That said, even with the proposed increases, our proposed program fees for next year remain within the range of our comparison districts' fees for this year. Please note that the "1 Day" rates listed for comparative districts in the chart below represent estimated daily totals calculated by combining their separate AM and PM rates. When approved, these fees will be published in the School Age Care brochures and emailed to homes in January each year.

The district also considered the proposed fee structure against the 4-Way Equity Test. The administration believes this fee structure continues to allow for equitable access. The district provides care for students with special needs by accessing the School Age Child Care for Disabled Students Levy. We work with Special Programs to create seamless practices and expectations between the school day and the SAC program. The SAC program meets Department of Human Services (DHS) requirements, allowing parents who receive childcare assistance to access our program. The Minnesota Child Care Assistance Program reimbursement rate is $21.00 hourly, $132.00 daily, and $375.00 weekly. Our proposed SAC program fees are less than these amounts.

Since August 2021, ongoing staffing shortages have created an annual fall waitlist for the SAC program, typically cleared each January. To manage this seasonal demand, the district will continue to administer a lottery for both the summer and school-year programs. This process follows a tiered registration timeline that prioritizes current families, waitlisted applicants, incoming kindergarten students, and district staff. To support equitable access across our community, we translate all registration materials and provide interpreter services to help families with communication.

SAC receives the Department of Human Resources Child Care Great Start Compensation Grant. This grant provides hourly stipends to SAC paraprofessionals. The district and Service Employees International Union Local No. 284 (SEIU) have a Memorandum of Agreement that allows the district to offer this hourly stipend to SAC employees.

School District 197 2026-2027	School District 197 2027-2028	School District 197 2028-2029
Registration Fee: $45.00	Registration Fee: $45.00	Registration Fee: $45.00
Daily Rate 1 Day=$30.25 (3%) AM K-4: $8.50 AM 5-8: $13.25 PM K-4: $21.75 PM 5-8: $17.00 Daily Drop-in Rate: AM: $4.00 additional PM: $6.00 additional Pick Your Day Rate: AM: Additional $2.00 PM: Additional $3.00	Daily Rate 1 Day=$31.25 (3%) AM K-4: $8.75 AM 5-8: $13.75 PM K-4: $22.50 PM 5-8: $17.51 Daily Drop-in Rate: AM: $5.00 additional PM: $7.00 additional Pick Your Day Rate: AM: Additional $3.00 PM: Additional $4.00	Daily Rate 1 Day=$32.25 (3%) AM K-4: $9.00 AM 5-8: $14.25 PM K-4: $23.25 PM 5-8: $18.00 Daily Drop-in Rate: AM: $5.00 additional PM: $7.00 additional Pick Your Day Rate: AM: Additional $3.00 PM: Additional $4.00
Non-School Day: $57.25 Summer Daily: $51.50	Non-School Day: $59.00 Summer Daily: $53.00	Non-School Day: $60.75 Summer Daily: $54.50

Inver Grove Heights 2026-2027	South St. Paul 2026-2027
Registration Fee: $30.00	Registration Fee: $50.00
Daily Rate 1 Day=$29.50-$45.00 AM: $12.75 - $21.50 PM: $16.75 - $23.50 Daily Drop-in Rate: AM: $25.00 PM: $25.00	Daily Rate 1 Day=$31.00-$37.00 AM: $15.00 - $18.00 PM: $16.00 - $19.00 Daily Drop-in Rate: AM: $23.00 PM: $25.00
Non-School Day: $47.00 – $57.00 Summer Daily: $47- $65	Non-School Day: $46.00 - $50.00 Summer Daily: $46 - $56

South Washington County 2026-2027	Spring Lake Park 2026-2027
Registration Fee: $69.00	Registration Fee: $25.00
Daily Rate 1 Day=$33.75 AM: $11.00 - $11.50 PM: $22.75 - $23.25 Daily Drop-in Rate: AM: $15.50 PM: $26.75	Daily Rate 1 Day=$38.50-$51.50 AM: $20.75-$27.75 PM: $17.75-$23.75 Daily Drop-In Rate: AM: $27.75 PM: $23.75
Non-School Day: $51.50 Summer Daily: $51.50 - $64.50	Non-School Day: $62 - $75 Summer Daily: $55.90

St. Louis Park 2026-2027	ISD 196 YMCA 2026-2027
Registration Fee: $40.00	Registration Fee: $50.00
Daily Rate 1 Day=$34.50 AM: $9.50 PM: $25.00	Daily Rate 1 Day=$38.40 AM: $19.20 PM: $19.20
Non-School Day: $59.95-$69.95 Summer Daily: $59.00-$68.45	Non-School Day: $60.00-$71.00

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION

No resolution is needed at this time. This fee increase proposal will be brought back for approval at a future board meeting.