



Proposed PreK Tuition Increase for 2022-23

Woodbridge Board of Education Finance Committee

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Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D., Superintendent

Richard Huot, Interim Director of Business Services & Operations

Cheryl Kiesel, Director of Special Services

Background

- For ages 3-4 children with identified special needs, PreK must be offered by the public school district at no charge. Tuition may be charged for other students, the “typical peers.” WSD currently offers a half-day program Monday-Thursday (3-year-olds in the morning, 4-year-olds in the afternoon). The half-day nature of the program is not recommended to change, as doing so would necessitate increased personnel, more space, etc.

Program	2021-22 Model	2021-22 Cost
Woodbridge Public	4 half days	\$2,400 age 3 / \$2,520 age 4

- The Finance Committee is asked to endorse a move from a 4-day model to a 5-day model, with increased tuition, based on comparatives and other elements.

Program	Proposed 2022-23 Model	Proposed 2022-23 Cost
Woodbridge Public	5 half days	\$3,250

Comparatives

Program	2022-23 Model	2022-23 Cost
Woodbridge Public	5 half days (proposed)	\$3,250 (proposed)
Bethany Public	5 half days	\$3,250
Orange Public	5 half days	\$3,250
Children's Garden (Woodbridge)	5 half days*	\$10,458
Ezra Academy (Woodbridge)	5 half days*	\$8,565
Trinity Community Preschool (Woodbridge)	5 half days*	\$4,360
Woodbridge Child Center	5 full days	\$13,104

* *“Half day” in some non-public programs is longer than in the public programs.*

Other Elements

- Moving to 5 days/week would shift hours of programming slightly, but result in increased hours to align with the CT Early Learning and Development Standards:

Age	2021-22 Hours	Proposed 2022-23 Hours	% Time Increase
3-year-olds	8:35-11:05 a.m. M-Th	8:35-11:05 a.m. M-F	25%
4-year-olds	11:50 a.m. - 2:50 p.m. M-Th	12:15-2:45 p.m. M-F	4%

- Staff time outside these hours will continue to be used for assisting with student transportation needs, planning & preparation, PPT meetings, & lunch.
- 5 days/week prepares students for routines of the Kindergarten experience.

In Conclusion

- Potentially, additional substitute coverage for the PreK teacher will be necessary to conduct PPTs that have typically been scheduled on Fridays; the District will attempt to minimize this, and the recent inclusion of additional arts programming in PreK will help.
- With 10 anticipated typical peers, anticipated additional revenue from the proposed model would represent a proposed operating budget savings of \$5,500. We would recommend a BOE Policy permitting the District to solicit enrollment of residents of other towns if the 10 seats are not filled by Woodbridge residents.
- With this proposal, there would be no increase in transportation cost, and a modest increase in bus fuel cost.