



## LAKE BLUFF SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

**TO:** Board of Education  
Dr. Lisa Leali, Superintendent

**FROM:** Jay Kahn, Chief School Business Official

**DATE:** February 24, 2026

**RE:** 2026-27 Student Fees

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### **Recommendation**

Administration recommends that the Board increase the Pre-K tuition to keep pace with other competitive programs, and to maintain all other fees at their current levels.

### **Background**

The administration annually recommends to the Board of Education the fees to be charged for the use of textbooks, consumable materials, extracurricular activities, and other school fees. Students will pay for loss of school books or other school-owned materials.

Property taxes charged to everyone in the community predominantly support the cost of running the school district (K-8). The fee philosophy is that the direct users of a service should bear a higher burden of the cost.

Fees are generally applied to various optional and enhancement components of the educational program. The revenue generated by these fees allows the District to provide enhanced services and programs. In addition, the Board charges fees for certain supply items that represent the actual cost of the item (PE uniforms, milk, field trips, etc.)

In order that no student is denied educational services due to the inability of parents/guardians to pay fees and charges, all fees may be waived for students who meet the eligibility criteria for fee waiver outlined in Board Policy 4:140.

### **Current Situation**

**Preschool Tuition – Administration recommends increasing the Pre-K tuition from \$5,000 to \$5,250.**

- Preschool is an elective program that is not taxpayer funded.
- Pre-K programs are costly to run, with very low student to staff ratios and high transportation costs.
- Our pre-K tuition is less than our comparable programs – the Lake Bluff Park District (\$5,535 in 2026-27) and Lake Forest School District 67 (\$5,200 in 2026-27) – and is significantly less than comparable childcare.
- Many of the students in our program have been identified as requiring early intervention services and will only pay the regular school fee of \$220 instead of the tuition.
- Making smaller adjustments annually avoids the need to make large adjustments.

Registration (Material and Technology fees) - Administration recommends leaving activity fees unchanged.

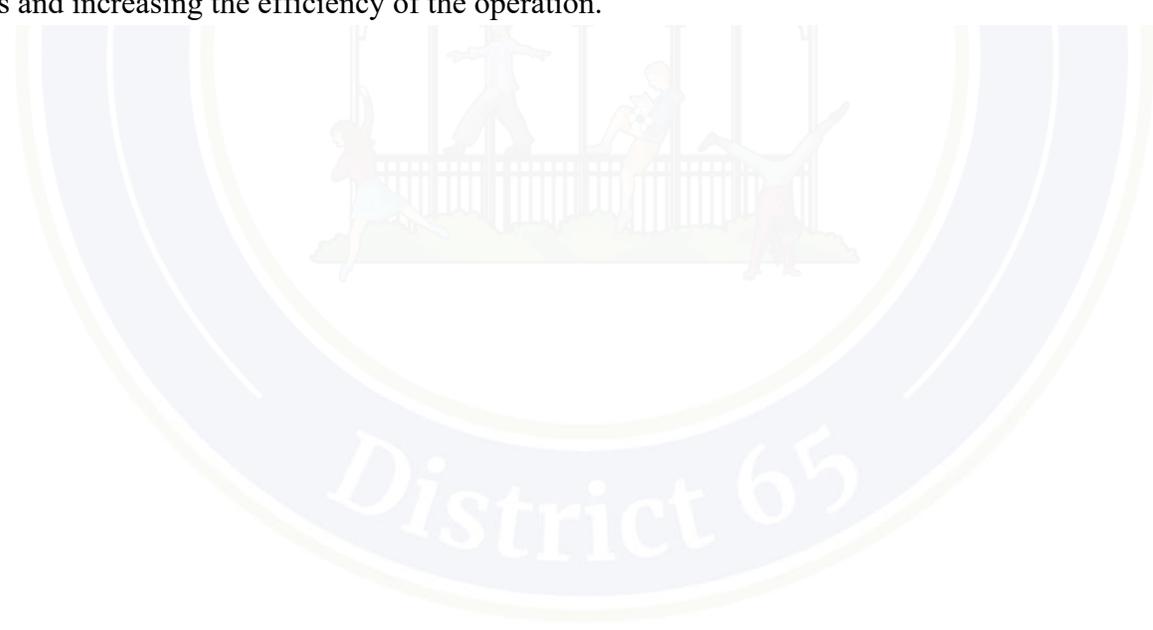
Historically, the Board has absorbed about 1/3 of the cost of materials and technology and students have paid for the remaining 2/3. This fee includes the cost of educational software licenses and one to one tech devices and their repairs.

Extracurricular activities – Administration recommends leaving activity fees unchanged.

Extracurricular activities are the largest source of discretionary incremental expenses, comprised of stipends, transportation costs, entry fees, uniforms, and supplies. We have historically not charged a fee for clubs and elementary intramural sports, though there *is* a fee for elementary band and chorus.

Transportation fee – Administration recommends maintaining the fee at \$400 per student (\$650 per family) with a 50% discount if registered for bus prior to the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

Charging a transportation fee has allowed the district to provide transportation at the lowest overall cost while managing traffic congestion at the schools. The current fee provides some revenue to subsidize operations. It also represents a good value to those who must rely on school transportation, and it discourages low users from signing up for transportation minimizing empty seats and increasing the efficiency of the operation.





**Lake Bluff 65 Comparable District Fees**

	Deerfield 109	Lake Forest 67	North Shore 112	Libertyville 70	Lincolnshire 103	Bannockburn 106	Oak Grove 68	Lake Bluff Park Dist.	Lake Bluff <i>Current</i>	Lake Bluff <i>Proposed</i>
<b><u>Required Fees:</u></b>	25-26	25-26	26-27	25-26	26-27	25-26	25-26	26-27	25-26	26-27
Material/Technology										
K	205	165	215	230	3,500	250	200		220	220
1	205	165	215	230	325	250	200		220	220
2	205	165	215	230	325	250	200		220	220
3	205	165	215	230	325	250	200		220	220
4	205	165	215	230	325	250	200		220	220
5	205	165	215	230	325	250	200		220	220
6	205	165	215	230	325	250	200		220	220
7	205	165	215	230	325	250	200		220	220
8	205	165	215	230	325	250	200		220	220
<i>Discount for early pay</i>	180		195	200	300					
<b><u>Optional Fees:</u></b>										
Pre-K (half day)	5,900	5,200	4,000	3,500	4,469	na	na	5,535	5,000	5,250
Band/Chorus Fee	55	-		-	100/50	50	50		50	50
Transportation (Single)	710*	380	545*	950*	-	-	-		200	200
Transportation (Family)	1770*	665			-				325	325
Athletics	85-130	-		-	100	100	-		100	100
Clubs	60	-		-	50-100	third party	-		-	-
							Encore		100	100
							Jazz band		50	50
							Sports fee (Field Hockey, Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer Wrestling, Track, etc)		100	100
							Cheer, Poms		75	75
							Intranural Sport Fees		50	50

\* for students residing > 1.5 miles from school