



**TO:** School Board Members

**FROM:** Lisa Grathen, Director of Community Education

**DATE:** December 9, 2024

**RE:** Approval of Early Learning Fee Increases for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027

**BACKGROUND:**

This item was discussed with board members at their meeting on November 18, 2024. To recap, there are a variety of funding streams that provide financial support for families who want to participate in early learning preschool programming. Families apply for available funds, which are awarded on a sliding scale based on the family income or needs of a student. There are income limits to receive financial support.

The chart on the following page details the current fees for a family not qualifying for financial assistance. These fees are more complicated than simply using a daily rate given holidays and other non-school days a particular program would not meet. The fees are determined based on the total number of programming days in a year.

The administration recommends a 3% increase for the next two school years, with one exception. Given market comparison and program costs, the administration proposes a larger increase for the extended school day program. Details are included in the table below. If approved, all fees will be published in the community preschool brochures and mailed to homes in February.

The district also considered the proposed fee structure against the 4-Way Equity Test. The fee structure continues to allow for equitable access. Students with special needs are integrated into early learning preschool classes at no cost or a reduced cost. Pathways I and II scholarships provide financial assistance to pay yearly tuition for students who meet free and reduced lunch qualifications. In addition, school readiness dollars provide transportation and tuition support for students who demonstrate a financial need. Registration materials and financial assistance forms are translated, and interpreters are provided to support communications. Individual support for families who are English language learners is provided to explain programs and preschool options.

School District 197 2024-2025	School District 197 2025-2026	School District 197 2026-2027
Registration Fee: \$55.00	Registration Fee: \$60.00	Registration Fee: \$60.00
Monthly Rate (9 payments) 2 day: \$176.00 3 day: \$246.00 5 day: \$396.00 All day: \$980	Monthly Rate 2 day: \$181.00 3 day: \$253.00 5 day: \$408.00 All day: \$980	Monthly Rate 2 day: \$186.50 3 day: \$261.00 5 day: \$420.00 All day: \$980
Extended day: \$12.00/day	Extended day: \$14.00/day	Extended day - \$14.50/day

Data from other districts:

Inver Grove Heights 2024-2025	ISD 196 2024-2025
No Registration Fee	No Registration Fee
<b>Monthly Rate</b> 2 day: \$152.00 3 day: \$198.00 5 day: \$328.00 All day: \$907.00	<b>Monthly Rate</b> 2 day: \$126.00 (2/hr/day vs 2.5 in other districts) 3 day: \$209.00 5 day: \$768.00
Extended day - \$12.50/day	Extended day: \$255 (half day only)

South Washington County 2024-2025	St Louis Park 2024-2025
Registration Fee: \$85.00	Registration Fee: \$75.00
Monthly Rate 2 day: \$195.00 3 day: \$230.00 5 day: \$395.00 All day: N/A	Monthly Rate 2 day: \$220.00 3 day: \$295.00 5 day: \$455.00 All-day: \$1,350 (7:00 AM-6:00 PM)
Extended Day: N/A	Extended Day: Included in all day price

Spring Lake Park 2024-2025
Registration Fee: \$25.00
Monthly Rate 2 day: \$194.00 3 day: \$295.00 All day: \$1,160
Extended Day: N/A

**RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:**

***BE IT RESOLVED*** by the School Board of School District 197 to approve the proposed Early Learning fee increases for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 as presented.