



Lincolnshire-Prairie View School District 103

Memo

To: Board of Education
From: Dr. Gina Finaldi
CC: Dr. Scott Warren
Date: December 12, 2025
Re: Student Services Executive Summary

Early Childhood Program Review and Registration Update

Historical Background and Rationale for Program Changes

Beginning in the 2022–2023 school year, the district observed a decline in the enrollment of community peers in the Blended Early Childhood (EC) program. This occurred despite having a waiting list of approximately 40 families who had expressed interest in enrolling their children as community peers earlier that year.

In March 2023, the district conducted an Early Childhood Lottery to fill community peer slots for the upcoming fall. However, a large number of families declined their placement offers, and community peer enrollment remained low. As this trend continued, it became clear that program structure - not lack of interest - was contributing to families opting out.

Board Discussions and Direction (Fall 2023)

In November 2023, following discussions with the Board of Education, the district was directed to explore programmatic changes that would better meet family needs and reverse declining enrollment. Specifically, the Board supported:

- Developing an extended day option for the Blended EC program.
- Offering transportation for community peers, with a fee structure similar to other optional transportation services in the district.

The overarching goal was to address barriers families identified and increase community peer enrollment, which were critical for maintaining balanced 70/30 classrooms and a high-quality blended EC model.

Feedback From Waitlisted Families

Families who declined enrollment consistently cited two primary reasons:

1. **Need for a full-day or extended-day schedule**

Many families required a longer day for childcare or work-related reasons and were willing to pay higher tuition elsewhere to secure this.

2. **Need for transportation**

Families indicated that transportation was essential for their child to attend, and they were willing to pay a fee for this service.

Program Model Changes for the 2024–2025 School Year

Based on Board direction, family feedback, and the need to stabilize community peer enrollment, the district implemented the following changes for the 2024–2025 school year:

1. **Addition of One Extended Day Blended EC Classroom**

- Capacity for 15 students (5 students with IEPs; 10 community peers).
- Aligns with consortium standards for EC Blended classrooms (1 teacher, 1 associate).
- Designed to meet the needs of families seeking a longer day for their child.

2. **Transportation Available for Community Peers (Fee-Based)**

- Available to students in both the half-day and extended-day programs.
- Removes a previously cited barrier to enrollment.

These program changes were implemented within the district's existing staffing structure, without adding positions. While we only sought to have one extended day section to begin with, based on the high level of interest in the extended day option, we accommodated the demand and met the original need by creating 3 extended day sections and 1 half-day section (AM/PM).

Below is the historical enrollment for the past 7 years.

School Year	# of IEP Blended Students	# of IEP IIP Students	# of CP Students
19-20	37	9	25

20-21	24	9	18
21-22	26	2	15
22-23	32	7	10
23-24	26	8	10
24-25	27	3	21
25-26	15	0	31

2026 Early Childhood Registration Update

We launched open registration for EC on December 2nd.

- As of 12/12/25, we have 5 returning IEP students and 7 anticipated IEP students (in the evaluation pipeline) who paid their deposit for registration (12 total).
- *Two of our current half-day students have requested extended day for next year.*
- There are 3 returning Community Peers and 9 new Community Peers (12 total) who have paid their deposit for registration.
- There are 11 additional new families of Community Peers who completed the intake form but have not yet paid their deposits.
- Of these, all 11 expressed interest in the extended day program; 4 families were open to the half-day program.
- A reminder email will be sent out this week to families that the deposits are due by December 31st to hold a spot.
- Registration will be capped at 20 for new families and a waitlist will be created while we determine enrollment and number of sections.

Additional department information:

- **Special Education Associate Update -**
We continue to be fully staffed at this time. While we had an associate resign from the Guided program at Sprague, the position has been filled.