



TO: School Board Members

FROM: Lisa Grathen, Director of Community Education

DATE: December 9, 2024

RE: Approval of Proposed School Age Care 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, 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. 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 the Department of Human Services (DHS) requirements to allow parents who receive childcare assistance to access our program. The Minnesota Child Care Assistance Program reimbursement rate is \$14.00 hourly, \$110.00 daily, and \$310.00 weekly. Our proposed SAC program fees are less than these amounts.

Our SAC program has had a waitlist since August 2021 due to staff shortages. In June, the district began working with Radar Talent Solutions. With Radar Talents' help in recruiting, screening, and supporting applicants, we have hired 24 SAC paraprofessionals.

The district implemented a lottery system for SAC registration for the 2024 summer and school year. The tiered registration timeline prioritized district employees and current, waitlisted, and incoming kindergarten families. Registration information and materials are translated, and interpreters are provided to support communication.

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

School District 197 2024-2025	School District 197 2025-2026	School District 197 2026-2027
Registration Fee: \$45.00	Registration Fee: \$45.00	Registration Fee: \$45.00
Daily Rate 1 Day=\$28.25 (3%) AM K-4: \$8.00 AM 5-8: \$12.25 PM K-4: \$20.25 PM 5-8: \$16.00 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=\$29.25 (3%) AM K-4: \$8.25 AM 5-8: \$12.75 PM K-4: \$21.00 PM 5-8: \$16.50 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=\$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
Non-School Day: \$54.00 Summer Daily: \$48.50	Non-School Day: \$55.50 Summer Daily: \$50.00	Non-School Day: \$57.25 Summer Daily: \$51.50

Inver Grove Heights 2024-2025	South St. Paul 2024-2025
Registration Fee: \$30.00	Registration Fee: \$35.00
Daily Rate 1 Day=\$26.50-\$31.00 AM: \$11.50 -\$12.50 PM: \$15.00-\$18.50 Daily Drop-in Rate: AM: \$21.00 PM: \$22.00 Pick Your Day Rate: \$12.50-\$18.50	Daily Rate 1 Day=\$27.00-\$33.00 AM: \$13.00 - \$16.00 PM: \$14.00 - \$17.00 Daily Drop-in Rate: AM: \$21.00 PM: \$23.00
Non-School Day: \$45.00 – \$52.00 Summer Daily: \$38.00	Non-School Day: \$42.00 - \$46.00 Summer Daily: \$37.00

South Washington County 2024-2025	Spring Lake Park 2024-2025
Registration Fee: \$69.00	Registration Fee: \$25.00
Daily Rate 1 Day=\$31.00 AM: \$10.25 PM: \$20.75 Daily Drop-in Rate: AM: \$14.25 PM: \$24.75	Daily Rate 1 Day=\$34.00-\$45.00 AM: \$18.50-\$24.00 PM: \$15.50-\$21.00 Daily Drop-In Rate: AM: \$24.00 PM: \$21.00
Non-School Day: \$46.00 Summer Daily: \$43.50	Non-School Day: \$51.00 Summer Daily: \$47.50

St Louis Park 2024-2025	ISD 196 YMCA 2024-2025
Registration Fee: \$40.00	Registration Fee: \$50.00
Daily Rate 1 Day=\$34.50 AM: \$9.50 PM: \$25.00	Daily Rate 1 Day=\$34.00 AM: \$17.00 PM: \$17.00
Non-School Day: \$59.95-\$69.95 Summer Daily: not determined	Non-School Day: \$50.00-\$60.00 Summer Daily: \$47.20

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

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