

## **Lake Forest School District 67 Student Fees Philosophy**

It is the philosophy of the Board of Education that fees are 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. District 67 applies fees for transportation, extended-day kindergarten, materials, technology, athletics, music, facility rental and food services. Additionally, fees are assessed throughout the year for specific activities including field trips and special programs. The charging of fees is permissible by law and District 67 has joined the ranks of most districts whose dependence on fees has increased in recent years. The Board of Education has attempted to balance each fee against its potential impact on educational goals and objectives.

Annually, the administration prepares a recommendation for fees. The Board Finance Committee presents this recommendation to the Board of Education. The recommendation includes the specific fees to be charged, the amounts to be charged, an aggregate estimate of collections, and a timeline. The district has a practice of collecting 100% of fees assessed and in fact, files small claims suits for non-collections. Waivers are granted to those families experiencing financial hardships; please contact the business office at 847-604-7457.

Fees are charged at various levels designed to subsidize programs and services. The Board has determined that it is appropriate for the level of subsidy to reflect the nature of the program or service provided. The following fees have been established in District 67:

### **Transportation**

Transportation services are provided for District 67 students. The Board of Education's current goal is to defray regular transportation costs through fees by 50%.

### **Extended Day Kindergarten**

Extended Day Kindergarten is offered as an option on a space available basis. The Board currently charges a fee which does not exceed 50% of the per capita cost.

### **Pre-School**

School District 67 early learning program is a Preschool for children with special needs, ages 3-5 years.

### **Consumable Material fees**

The Board charges material fees set at different levels for kindergarten, first-seventh grade, and eighth grade. In addition, the Board charges fees for certain supply items that represent the actual cost of the item.

### **Technology Fees**

The use of technology in the delivery of educational programming continues to grow. As such tools have become an increasingly important component of learning; the Board has implemented a fee which enables the District to continue funding technology in spite of reduced financial support at the state and federal levels.

### **Interscholastic Athletic Fees**

Active student participation in interscholastic athletics is an important goal of the Board. As such, the District subsidizes the costs of this program. Fees are charged to defray the costs of coaches, referees, and transportation, and to enable increased offerings.

### **Band/Orchestra/Chorus Fees**

The Band, Orchestra and Chorus programs are important supplemental programs for the District. As such, the programs are heavily subsidized. However, a fee is charged to defray the costs associated with operating these programs. The fee is purposefully set at an affordable level since many families enrolled in these programs have large independent costs such as instrument rentals and purchases.

### **Food Services**

The district provides an extensive meal and ala carte lunch program for students. Lunch and milk fees are designed in coordination with state and federal subsidies to cover the full cost of the program.

### **Facility Rental**

The district allows community groups to rent various facility space throughout the year. These community groups are charged fees (i.e. rentals) and, when appropriate, maintenance and custodial charges are added at the actual hourly cost.

### **Field Trips**

Field trips are required of students in several curriculum subjects. Parents are charged for the actual cost of the trip (transportation included) in the days before the field trip takes place. Costs vary from \$2 to \$106 (e.g. Atwood) depending on the extent of the trip.

### **Graduation**

The Graduation fee is included in the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Consumable Technology fee. Overall changes in fees is influenced by a number of considerations including:

- Changes in the cost of delivering existing fee-based services
- Overall revenue shortfall in the expected budget
- Changes in other revenue sources
- New or enhanced student services
- Level of fees and subsidies in other districts

The Board of Education is sensitive to the impact that fees have on parents and attempts to balance the percentage increase in fees (in aggregate and per student) with the overall financial and educational goals for the District.