



LINCOLN PRESCHOOL

Ballfield Road
Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773
781-259-9889 • Fax: 781-259-9246
lfagan@lincnet.org

Preschool

Lynn Fagan

Preschool Coordinator

To: Dr. Rebecca McFall, Superintendent
Buckner Creel, Administrator for Business and Finance

From: Lynn Fagan, Preschool Coordinator

Date: June 1, 2018

Re: Preschool Fees

In 2015, the Lincoln Preschool engaged in a study of the preschool tuition for our program in comparison to both public and private schools in the area. This memo provides updated information regarding tuition fees. At this time, no action is recommended to increase preschool fees as the preschool recently completed a three-year incremental tuition increase. The data included applies only to the inclusive preschool day and does not take into account the tuition for the child care extended day program. In addition, information is not provided about the longer day that is provided to children with disabilities as tuition does not apply.

Program Description

The Lincoln Preschool is a publicly administered program that provides early care and education for students ages 2.9 years to five years. The preschool program was developed with the primary charge to provide inclusive educational services to children with disabilities. The Lincoln Preschool operates under the philosophy of inclusion, which is a foundational belief that all children can be educated together and therefore the supports provided and other aspects of the Preschool program, from staffing to curriculum, are designed with inclusion in mind.

Tuition Fees

Parents of students who do not require specialized instruction may choose to enroll their children at the Lincoln Preschool and pay tuition. Students who qualify for special education are provided with a free public education and are not charged tuition. Some parents have demonstrated a financial need for reduction in tuition and the district has utilized a state approved sliding scale fee. The formula for the sliding scale was adopted from the Department of Education's Tuition Policy for Quality Full Day Kindergarten and Transition Planning Grants and was based on the Department of Early Education and Care Financial Income Eligibility Table from 2016. The table is used to determine eligibility for reduced tuition based on a family's income and size upon the provision of income verification to the Preschool Coordinator's office.

Tuition Increase Implemented from 2015 Proposal

The current tuition was proposed and approved by School Committee in March 2015 and was implemented starting in September 2015 and was completed this past year. An increase of 33% (\$1000) was applied over the 2016-2017 school year, and an additional increase of 15% (\$600) was applied for the 2017-2018 school year (for a total of \$1600 over a two-year period.) An increase of 15% (\$500) was applied to the Extended Day program annual cost of \$3500 for the 2016-2017 school year. The increases resulted in additional revenue while continuing to support families who require financial assistance to access the preschool program. The increased tuition would generate a small amount to offset a portion of the costs while enabling families to access a preschool education that is affordable. With the recommended increases over the two-year period, the Lincoln Preschool continued to have the lowest programming fees.

The following table provides updated information on nearby public and private preschools current tuition rates. **Although the Lincoln Preschool fees are still lower than that of other programs in the area, an increase in preschool fees is not recommended at this time.** The Lincoln Preschool's primary purpose is to provide specialized instruction for eligible special education students in the least restrictive environment (one that includes typically developing age equivalent peers.) From 2015-2018, the Lincoln Preschool implemented the first increase in tuition in over ten years. An additional increase in tuition at this time may be a financial hardship for families. It has been established that having typically developing age level peers in a preschool program is the most beneficial for all students but particularly beneficial for those requiring specialized instruction. It is recommended that the tuition be reviewed each year to determine if an increase is warranted.

Program Name	Type	Program Details	Hourly Cost
Acton	Public	4 half days (2.75 hours) \$3,530 annual-same cost	\$8.91
		4 full days (6.5 hours) \$6,830 annual-same cost	\$7.30
Bedford	Public	3 half days (3 hours) \$3,200 annual	\$9.87
		5 half days (3 hours) \$5200 annual	\$11.55
Lincoln <i>Lincoln (continued)</i>	Public	2 half days (4 hours) \$1,840 annual	\$6.39
		3 half days (4 hours) \$2,760 annual	\$6.39
		5 half days (4 hours) \$4,600 annual	\$6.39
		5 half days (2.5 hours) \$2,760 annual	\$6.13
		4 half days (2.5 hours) \$2,410 annual	\$6.69

Program Name	Type	Program Details	Hourly Cost
Maynard	Public	4 half days (2.5 hours) \$4,000 annual	\$11.11
		4 full days (6 hours) \$8000 annual	\$9.26
Sudbury	Public	3 half days (2.5 hours) \$3,145 annual	\$11.65
		4 half days (2.5 hours) \$4,175 annual	\$11.60
Wayland	Public	3 half days (3 hours) \$4,636 annual	\$14.30
		4 half days (3 hours) \$6,060 annual	\$14.03
		5 half days (3 hours) \$7,462 annual	\$13.81
		3 full days (7 hours) \$9,782 annual	\$12.94
		4 full days (7 hours) \$1,2554 annual	\$12.46
		5 full days (7 hours) \$1,5342 annual	\$12.18
Lexington	Public	4 half days (2.5 hours) \$3,250	\$9.00
		4 full days (6 hours) \$7,800	\$9.03
Belmont	Public	4 half days (2.5 hours) \$3,550	\$ 9.86
Lincoln Nursery School	Private	3 half days (3 hours) \$6,300 annual	\$19.44
		4 half days (3 hours) \$8,400 annual	\$19.44
		5 half days (3 hours) \$10,200 annual	\$18.89
Magic Garden	Private	3 days (7 hours) \$10,630 10-months	\$14.06
		4 days (7 hours) \$14,170 10-months	\$14.06
		5 days (7 hours) \$17,720 10-months	\$14.06

The following display appears on the district website; the title would be updated if the School Committee accepts the recommendation to keep the same fee schedule:

Tuition Schedule for 2017-2018

Lincoln Campus			
8:15 am-12:15 pm	Days/Week	Month	Annual
	5	\$460.00	\$4,600.00
	3	\$276.00	\$2,760.00
	2	\$184.00	\$1,840.00
<i>Extended Day, 12:15 pm-4:15 pm Additional Monthly Fee (Lincoln Campus Only)</i>		\$450.00	\$4,500.00
Hanscom Campus			
	Days/Week	Month	Annual
Morning, 8:15 am- 10:45 am	5	\$276.00	\$2,760.00
Afternoon, 12:15 pm- 2:45 pm	4	\$241.00	\$2,410.00