

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

February 25, 2013

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Joshua P. Starr, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Fiscal Year 2014 Summer School Fees

Executive Summary

This summer, we again will provide revenue-based programs for intervention, enrichment, and acceleration of academic instruction for students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) through four elementary regional centers, four high school regional centers, and local school programs. We will continue to expand learning opportunities that are relevant to the targeted needs and interests of local school communities. To maximize available staff and fiscal resources, schools may choose to collaborate in the design of cluster-based programs rather than offer separate programs at each school site. By coordinating and collocating programs, schools may combine their revenue from course fees to allow for the purchase of services, such as clerical support, security staff, transportation, and food services that might not be financially feasible for individual summer school programs. Additional summer courses are offered through the minimal fee-based program.

Attachment A, *Course Enrollment and Revenue*, compares regional summer school data from Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 and FY 2013. Attachment B, *Program and Fee Overview*, summarizes the fee proposal for FY 2014.

Summary of Recommendations

I am recommending that all full and reduced fees be maintained at the FY 2013 rates for summer school revenue-based and minimal fee-based programs in FY 2014. I also am recommending that the family income guidelines used to qualify for the reduced fees or waivers which are set to match as closely as possible the income eligibility guidelines for a household size of four for Free and Reduced-price Meals System be as follows:

- \$0–\$29,961 qualifies for the reduced fee of \$85
- \$29,962–\$42,643 qualifies for the reduced fee of \$120

Summer School: Revenue-based Programs

Summer school is an integral part of the MCPS strategic plan, *Our Call to Action: Pursuit of Excellence*. Programs that extended beyond the school year need to apply the same standards of achievement as those applied during the regular school year. Whether a student is making up a course and needs individualized and focused instruction or is taking additional classes to increase his/her high school credits, instruction must be of the highest quality. The contract with the Montgomery County Education Association supports high-quality instruction by maintaining teacher pay rates to attract and retain the most qualified staff members.

With the loss of the specific contribution to cover the difference between the full fee and the reduced fee paid by qualifying families, the Summer School Program was removed from the enterprise fund beginning with FY 2005 and is now funded through the general fund. Fees continue to be based on a break-even analysis if all families paid the full fee. In light of the difficult economic times faced by many families and with only small increases expected in salary costs, I am recommending that fees for the Summer School Revenue-based Programs remain the same as in FY 2013 as shown in the table below.

Summer School Revenue-based Programs
Fee Schedule

Program	Actual FY 2012 Fees	Recommended FY 2013 Fees
Elementary School (2 courses in 4 weeks)	\$335	\$335
High School Courses (1/2 credit)	\$300	\$300

The Summer School Program provides the necessary flexibility for schools to develop summer programs to address the needs of students in their local school or cluster. While the same fee will be charged for credit courses for all programs, fees for remedial and enrichment courses will be established at the local school level, according to the courses offered. These fees will be determined by the length of the course, the salary costs to pay the teachers, and the infrastructure requirements for the individual school program.

In addition to the local school programs and the regional summer school course offerings, MCPS will offer student online courses again this summer. The student online summer course offerings will be Comprehensive Health Education and Foundations of Technology. The tuition fee of \$310 per half credit for these online courses is recommended to remain the same.

Reduced fees are offered to families with low incomes. Under my proposed recommendation, the summer school revenue-based reduced fees would remain the same for total family annual incomes within the following guidelines for FY 2014:

**Summer School Revenue-based Programs
Reduced Fee Schedule**

FY 2014	
Income	Tuition Fee
\$0-\$29,961	\$85
\$29,962-\$42,643	\$120

Summer School: Minimal Fee-based Programs

Certain summer school programs, because of their relationship to systemwide priorities and mandates, were never intended to be self-supporting. A minimal fee is charged to help offset a portion of the expenditures, and fees are waived for those students whose family’s income meets the eligibility requirements. The table below presents the proposed recommended fee structure, which would remain unchanged.

**Summer School Minimal Fee-based Programs
Fee Schedule**

Program	Actual FY 2012 Fees	Recommended FY 2013 Fees
ESOL	\$140	\$140
Project Discovery (Special Education)	\$140	\$140
Middle School Extended Year 4-week Support	\$ 95	\$ 95
Middle School Extended Year 3-week Focus on Math	\$ 75	\$ 75

Tuition waivers are offered to families with incomes below \$42,643 for FY 2014.

For your consideration, a resolution is provided below:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education approves tuition fees each year for summer school; and

WHEREAS, Summer School Revenue-based Program costs are projected to rise only slightly; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Summer School Revenue-based Program full fees be maintained at the current FY 2013 rate (\$335 for elementary school courses; \$300 for high school courses; and \$310 for student online courses); and be it further

Resolved, That the Summer School Revenue-based Program reduced fees be maintained at the current FY 2013 rate (\$85 and \$120, respectively, depending upon family income); and be it further

Resolved, That the total annual family income guidelines for qualifying for reduced fees and waivers be \$0-\$29,961 for the lowest reduced fee; \$29,962-\$42,643 for the higher reduced fee; and below \$42,643 for waivers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Summer School Minimal Fee-based Program course fees be maintained.

Present at the table is Dr. Beth Schiavino-Narvaez, deputy superintendent, Office of School Support and Improvement.

JPS:iaw

Attachments

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

REGIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM
COURSE ENROLLMENT AND REVENUE

COURSE ENROLLMENT		
	FY 2012	FY 2013
Elementary School		
Computers	101	74
Mathematics	462	360
Reading	536	450
<i>Total Elementary School</i>	1,099	884
High School		
English	1,332	1,117
Mathematics	2,230	1,828
Science	421	288
Social Studies	449	338
Technology Education	148	148
Health	232	195
<i>Total High School</i>	4,812	3,914
Minimal Fee-based Programs		
Special Education	16	8
ESOL	465	412
<i>Total Minimal Fee-based</i>	481	420
ALL PROGRAMS	6,392	5,218

PERCENTAGE OF REDUCED FEES		
	FY 2012	FY 2013
Elementary School	53%	56%
High School	52%	53%
<i>Percentage of Total Program</i>	53%	53%

PERCENTAGE OF TUITION WAIVERS		
	FY 2012	FY 2013
Special Education	18%	14%
ESOL	72%	70%

REVENUE FOR ALL PROGRAMS		
	FY 2012	FY 2013
Revenue-based Programs		
Elementary School	\$ 84,960	\$ 67,914
High School	\$ 804,178	\$ 733,258
Local School Programs	\$ 522,350	\$ 562,460
Caps & Gowns	\$ 1,394	\$ 1,450
Total Revenue	\$ 1,412,882	\$ 1,365,082
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,850,922	\$ 1,847,146
Difference	\$ (438,040)	\$ (482,064)
Minimal Fee-based Programs		
Special Education	\$ 1,960	\$ 980
ESOL	\$ 17,300	\$ 15,960
Total Revenue	\$ 19,260	\$ 16,940
Total Expenditures	\$ 117,937	\$ 128,536
Difference	\$ (98,677)	\$ (111,596)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**SUMMER SCHOOL
PROGRAM AND FEE OVERVIEW**

	Courses Included	Instruction	FY 13 Fee	Proposed FY 14 Fee
Revenue-based Programs				
Regional Elementary School	Computer Application (Grades 3–5) Introduction to Computers (Grades K–2) Mathematics Reading	Fee includes two classes 19 days of instruction	\$335	\$335
Regional High School	College/Career Research and Development Comprehensive Health Education English 9, 10, 11, and 12 Mathematics: Algebra 1 and 2 Bridge to Algebra 2 Geometry Honors Geometry B (for rising 9th graders) Precalculus Science: Biology Chemistry Matter and Energy Social Studies: National, State, and Local Government Modern World History U.S. History Technology Education: Foundations of Technology	Fee includes 1/2 credit 14 days of instruction per 1/2 credit	\$300	\$300
Local School	Determined individually by school	Determined by school	Varies	Varies
Minimal Fee-based Programs				
ESOL	ESOL Grades 1–5 ESOL Grades 9–12	19 days of instruction 14 days of instruction	\$140	\$140
Special Education	Project Discovery (Special Education)	19 days of instruction	\$140	\$140
Middle School	Middle School Extended Year 4-week Support Middle School Extended Year 3-week Focus on Math	19 days of instruction 15 days of instruction	\$95 \$75	\$95 \$75
eLearning				
Online	Comprehensive Health Education Foundations of Technology	Fee includes 1/2 credit	\$310 \$310	\$310 \$310