

FOR DISCUSSION

**Lisle Community Unit School District No. 202
Finance Committee Meeting
May 19, 2026**

SUBJECT: Reduced Student Fee Waiver Discussion

RECOMMENDATION: Administration recommends formally documenting the District’s reduced student fee waiver practice within Board Policy 4:140 and adjusting the reduced-price fee structure from a 75% reduction to a 50% reduction beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

Eligibility Status	Previous Practice	Proposed Practice
Free Meal Eligible	100% Fee Waiver	100% Fee Waiver (No Change)
Reduced Meal Eligible	Pay 25% of Fees	Pay 50% of Fees

BACKGROUND: Board Policy 4:140 requires the waiver of eligible school fees for students who qualify for free meals under federal income guidelines. Historically, the District has also provided a reduced fee structure for students who qualify for reduced-price meals. Illinois law requires fee waivers for students qualifying under federal free meal income guidelines; however, reduced-price fee reductions are determined locally through Board policy and administrative practice.

While the District has historically charged reduced-price eligible families 25% of applicable fees (a 75% reduction), this practice is not currently documented in Board Policy or Administrative Procedure. Administration recommends formally documenting the reduced fee structure within Board Policy 4:140 as part of the broader review of the District’s student fee waiver procedures.

Administration also recommends modifying the reduced fee structure from a 75% reduction to a 50% reduction beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

Survey of Neighboring School Districts

Administration conducted an informal survey of neighboring school districts regarding how reduced-price eligible families are treated for school fees and extracurricular participation fees.

District Practice	Number of Districts	Fee Charged to Reduced-Price Families
No Reduced Fee Program	5	100% of Fees
50% Reduction	4	50% of Fees
Full Waiver	4	0% of Fees

The survey results indicated variation among districts. However, Lisle’s previous practice of charging reduced-price eligible families only 25% of applicable fees was unique among the districts surveyed.

Rationale for Recommendation

- Aligns more closely with the practices observed in surrounding school districts.
- Simplifies fee calculations and administrative processing.
- Formally documents a historical practice that is not currently reflected in Board Policy.
- Maintains meaningful financial assistance for qualifying families while helping offset a portion of District operational costs associated with extracurricular participation and student programming.

Additional Information

A draft Student Fee Waiver Procedures document is provided in BoardBook for Committee reference. The procedures document provides additional detail regarding covered and non-covered fees, fee waiver eligibility, administrative procedures, and other implementation details.

Following Finance Committee discussion, administration anticipates presenting proposed revisions to Board Policy 4:140 to the Board of Education next month for first reading and consideration.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Based on current reduced-price meal eligibility counts and estimated average fee participation, administration estimates that moving from the current 75% reduced fee waiver to a 50% reduced fee waiver would reduce district fee subsidies by an estimated \$10,000 to \$15,000 annually.