



FY27 Class Fees: - Public Hearing Information

- I. Public Hearing for Annual Class Fees: At the July 21, 2026, board meeting, in accordance with state statute 123B.38, St. Croix Preparatory Academy is holding a hearing on the proposed adoption of a fee policy which includes assessing the following per-student fees:

Fee	Description	Grade level	Fee per Student
Technology Fee (permitted statute 123b.38)	Annual licensing fee for student information system, textbook management, all- school messaging systems and student fee pay system.	all	\$36
Volunteer Background Check Fee (permitted statute 123b.38)	Fund bi-annual background check required for all volunteers.	all	\$5

NOTE: see attached 'Class Fee Analysis' for additional detail.

The administration proposes fees be waived for all students who qualify for free lunch and reduced by 50% for those who qualify for reduced lunch.

Following the hearing, the board will vote on initiation of afore-mentioned fees.

II. Additional Background information:

- A. Components of the student fee. Beginning in FY15, the board approved a single 'class fee'. The FY27 combined fee is comprised of the following components:
 - a. Technology Fee: The technology fee is a per student fee for the following annual license fees:
 - i. Synergy (student information system)
 - ii. SchoolPay (student fee-pay system)
 - iii. School Messenger (all-school messaging system)
 - iv. SignUp (Parent Teacher Conference and Parent Group activities signup tool)
 - v. Smore (Lower School newsletter tool)
 - vi. Linden Tech (Visitor sign in tool)
 - vii. Region 1 (On-Line registration module)
 - viii. Constant Contact (All School Newsletter tool)
 - ix. Formstack (Survey and student registration tool)
- B. Background Check Fee: The background check fee is a per student fee to fund the cost of background checks for each volunteer.

III. Recommendation: *The administration recommends a \$41 per student FY27 class fee, with the fee waived for students who qualify for free lunch and reduced by 50% (\$20.50) for those who qualify for reduced lunch.* This recommendation is based on projected FY27 class fee revenue and the corresponding expenses.

- A. Technology Fee of \$40 is \$1 more than FY26 Technology Fees due to license fee increases and the addition of the Online Registration module license. The FY27 projected participation reflects the FY26 actual participation percentage.
- B. Background Check Fee of \$5 is consistent with FY26 Class Fees of \$5 per full-pay student.

IV. Pros/Cons of assessing per student background check fee: Because the practice of assessing a background check fee per student versus per volunteer basis varies from many school districts, it is important to review the rationale for this practice.

A. Cons of assessing 'background check fee':

- a. More background checks are processed than are required because individuals do not incur the cost.

B. Pros of assessing 'background check fee':

- a. Consistent with SCPA School Board's philosophical position since FY11, which is: SCPA assesses the fee to the *student* who benefits from the volunteer's services, rather than the *volunteer*, who is already donating his/her time to benefit the student.
- b. Collecting this fee and requesting background check authorization on-line, creates operational efficiency in the business office.
- c. This fee simplifies the 'volunteer recruiting process' because most fees are collected on 'back to school night' and not piecemeal as volunteers choose to volunteer.
- d. Assessing 'per student fee' encourages even the infrequent volunteer because it eliminates the objection of, 'I can only volunteer once, I don't want to pay \$14 for a background check'.
- e. Recommendation re: Assessment of Background Check Fee: The administration feels the 'pros' of assessing the fee outweigh the 'cons' and therefore, recommends the Board approved FY27 'per student' background check fee as proposed.