

Before- and After-School Child Care Update

Board Report
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Background

- Current program is tuition-based child care for before- and after-school K-5 child care with **no subsidies** for families that cannot afford it
- Per labor contracts, most district employees have received a 20% tuition **discount supplemented** through the District's General Fund (\$74,131 actual for 2022-2023)
- Before- and after-school child care are not part of the District's state requirements

2023-24 Child Care at Shoreline Schools

- District-managed child care
 - Briarcrest
 - Brookside
 - Highland Terrace
 - Meridian Park
 - Ridgecrest
- The Y rents facilities to offer its own licensed child care in the remaining K-5 schools
 - Echo Lake
 - Lake Forest Park
 - Parkwood
 - Syre



Extended Care at Shoreline Schools

We are proud that Shoreline School District has been able to provide a valuable child care option for many years with dedicated and passionate staff.

However, beginning with the 2024-25 school year, Shoreline School District will no longer operate and offer the district-run extended care program.



Discontinuing the Extended Care Program 2024-25

- Offering licensed child care is a major priority in our district so it can be accessible to all families across the school district.
- The possibility of licensing the district-run extended care program has been explored ([watch May 23, 2023 Study Session | view presentation](#)).
- Through this exploration, it became clear that this work is best performed by an outside agency that specializes in operating a licensed child care program.
- Detailed and thoughtful examination of the many factors at play have led to the difficult decision to move before- and after-school K-5 child care services to a third party(ies).

Why does the district not offer state-licensed child care?

- A licensed program requires additional logistics, knowledge, and management outside of the district's expertise and staffing capacity
 - Additional requirements will increase the need for staffing, materials, training, and infrastructure
- Requires additional budget capacity
- The position of Director of Shoreline Children's Center was eliminated in 2020 due to budgetary constraints
 - This position would be critical and would lead, administer, and provide direct oversight of the program

Operating a state-licensed child care program translates to increased workloads for existing staff and would require additional staff for the following:

Billing Department Requirements

- Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) billing process would need to be handled by the district accounting department
- Reimbursement model through the State of Washington (services provided and paid for in order to receive the funds)
- This work is not part of the district's current accounting staffing model

Food Service Department Requirements

- Meal plans and menus must meet licensing requirements
- Plan for child food preferences

Human Resources Requirements

- Recruit and hire staff
- Track and manage staff qualifications and requirements as required by state law

Individual School Nurse Requirements

- Health plans for each student are required, which would add significant workload to school nurse staff

Estimated Annual Costs to Operate a State Licensed Child Care Program

Category	1 site	9 sites
Director (for all sites)	_____	\$207,000
Staffing (site coordinators, leads, assistants)	\$225,768	\$1,233,917
Logistics/Operations	\$2,424	\$21,822
Programming Changes	\$225	\$2,025
Training/Ongoing Professional Development	\$1,022	\$7,108
Total Estimated Cost	\$229,439	\$1,471,872

Note: Annual costs are based on estimates as of May 2023 and do not include billing and operational support from existing staff. Additionally, new estimates would be higher due to inflation and increased salary costs.

Additional requirements

Additional Staff Training and Requirements

- Food handler permits
- TB testing
- Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) portable background check
- Leads must have completed 12 college credits
- STARS trainings (ongoing required professional development)
- State-level trainings for the Director and Site Coordinators

Other

- Students with special needs must have written plans under The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Screen time limit requirement and must have an educational purpose; limited to 2.5 hours per week excluding homework
- Daily lesson plans required to be posted and communicated to families

Summary of Findings

- The district does not have staffing and budget capacity to start and maintain and sustain a licensed child care program in all K-5 elementary schools due to:
 - Expense
 - Organizational complexity and state requirements
 - Staffing (direct, school, and district support)
- The district is fully utilizing its resources for the basic K-12 education program as funded and mandated by state and federal government
- Renting the facility to an agency that specializes in licensed child care will provide for child care to remain on site for child and family access and expand access to include families who are eligible for childcare subsidies
- [Out of School Time](#) is an industry and profession in its own right, with agencies and organizations that specialize in this work.

Facility Use

- Licensed child care providers have expressed interest in operating their own program to service Shoreline K-5 schools, which will be of great benefit to our community
- No formal purchasing or procurement process is required by the State
- Facility rental fees are charged to cover the District's overhead costs for custodial, utilities, etc.

Next Steps

- Facilities will be rented to provider(s) that may offer child care
- Information about the rental agreement(s) will be presented at a board meeting in November or December



THANK YOU