



Expect
More.

Update on Middle School Sports

Presented to the School Board
May 19, 2026



Why We're Here

- District is cutting its general fund budget for 2026-27 by more than \$5 million
- Middle school sports are currently operating at a loss = about \$150,000/year
- Shifting this cost away from general fund to Community Education

In the past 3
years the
district has cut
\$12 million

Reasons For Cuts:

Unfunded state mandates

Legislation negatively impacting
revenue

Inflation and rising costs



**Community
Education's mission:**
To provide lifelong
learning opportunities
that promote the health
and wellbeing of our
community.



Community Feedback

What aspects of current programs are most important to preserve?	What else would you like the district to consider?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Access and equity● Convenience and location● Coaching● School connection and culture● Development and variety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Keep athletics within the district/school● Increase participation fees● Maintain accessibility and equity for all students● Transportation is critical● Value of sports and teacher/coach connection



Our Goals

- Provide the highest quality middle school sports program at the most reasonable cost
- Create a budget that ensures financial stability and long-term viability of the program
- Maintain accessibility for students





What This Means For Families

What Stays The Same

- ✓ Sports offered
- ✓ Coaching staff
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ School connection and culture

What Changes

- ✓ Higher participation fees



Programming

- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Boys and Girls Soccer
- Boys and Girls Tennis
- Boys and Girls Track
- Boys Baseball, Girls Softball
- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Girls Swimming
- Girls Volleyball
- Boys Wrestling

Current Fees:

Grade 6-8 = \$95

Reduced = \$47.50

Free = \$0

2026-27

Proposed Fees:

Grade 6-8 = \$200*

Reduced = \$75

Free = \$25

**Fees will not exceed \$200 per participant*



Managing Costs

We're reducing impact on families by:

- ✓ Subsidizing transportation and activities coordinator costs within general fund
- ✓ Finding cost savings within current program structure

Additional cost savings may be possible:

- Cities asked to levy for recreation funding
- Donations from community organizations

Actual cost
to run middle
school sports
= \$285
per student





Fees In Surrounding Districts

District	Run by:	Fees
Spring Lake Park	Community Ed	\$200
Centennial	Community Ed	\$200
Stillwater (Proposed for 2026-27)	Community Ed	\$200
South Washington County (in-district only)	Community Ed	\$182
Mahtomedi	Community Ed	\$159
Mounds View (in-district only)	Community Ed	\$159
White Bear Lake	Community Ed	\$150
Chisago (no free/reduced fee option)	Outsourced	\$225
Roseville	School District	\$110
North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale	School District	\$75



What To Expect

- Participation fees to be finalized this summer
- Registration for fall sports begins mid-July
- Process to register will be the same as this year





Questions?
