

fact\$ *in a backpack*

November 2007

School fees buy workbooks, agendas, more

Fees in West Carrollton Schools fund a variety of items that help teachers reach every student with excellent daily instruction.

The largest portion of fees funds materials that ultimately belong to the students: workbooks, journals and periodicals or supplies that aid instruction. Other typical expenditures include transportation for field trips or items shared building wide such as library books or assemblies.

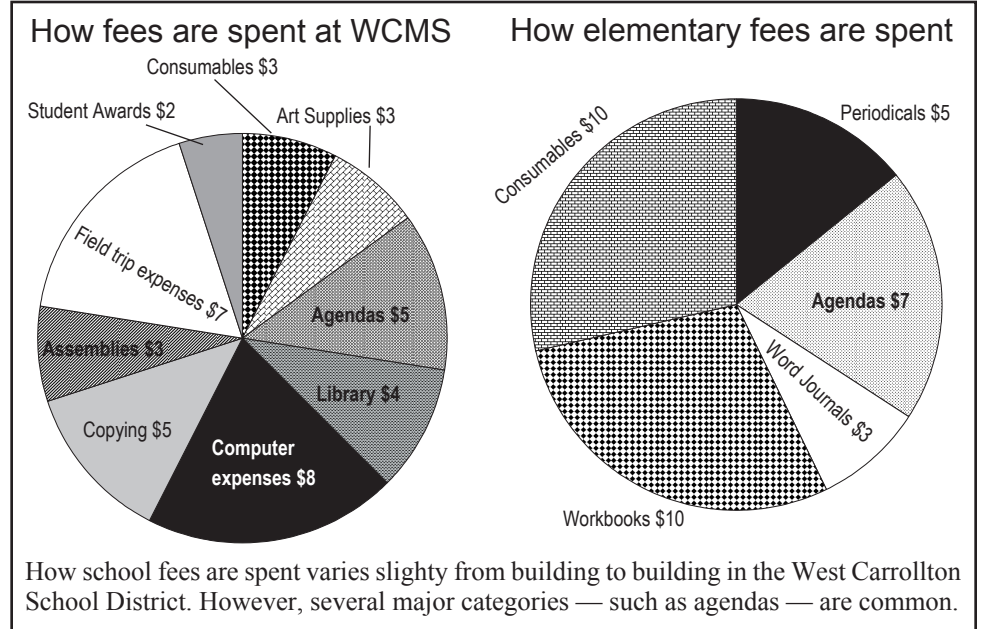
Kindergarten fees at the ECC are \$25. Most of that, \$16, goes to consumable materials: paint, paper and craft supplies. The remaining \$9 provides each student with a backpack and nametag.

In WCSD elementary buildings, school fees are \$35 each. Among the expenditures common to all four buildings are the agenda books. Those books are funded by \$7 out of each child's school fee payment. In all four buildings, another \$10 of each fee goes toward workbooks for various subjects. At Holliday, Nicholas and Russell, another \$10 goes to consumable materials such as construction paper, ink and toner and other items that are used by or directly for students.

At Holliday and Nicholas, Word Journals are purchased for students with another \$3 from each school fee and periodicals such as Weekly Reader are purchased with the final \$5.

At Russell, \$3 is used for reward and incentive programs such as the quarterly Honors Breakfast. Another \$5 helps fund busing expenses for field trips. Classes which use periodicals such as Weekly Reader pay an additional fee.

At Schnell, \$8 from each fee is put toward building wide assemblies and BRAVO Day activities; \$5 goes toward



common computer lab and library needs; and the final \$5 helps fund transportation for field trips.

At the Middle School level, fees are \$40 and fund a wider variety of items: \$8 for computer expenses; \$7 for field trip expenses including transportation; \$5 for copying expenses; \$5 for agenda books; \$4 for library books and supplies; \$3 for programs and assemblies; \$3 for art supplies; \$3 for consumables; and \$2 for student awards.

High school fees are more complex. The \$40 general fee funds the following: \$7 for field trip expenses and transportation; \$7 for computer expenses; \$6 for copying expenses; \$5 for programs and assemblies; \$4 for library books and supplies; \$4 for consumables; \$3 for student incentives; \$2 for student specialty equipment; \$2 for newsletters and printing.

Additional fees are often assessed for specific classes. For example, most advanced science classes have a lab

fee which covers materials used in experiments. Students enrolled in wood shop supply the lumber for their projects, but a fee provides them with nails, glue and other common shop supplies. Other high school course fees cover workbooks or other specific supplies. Course fees are:

- Wood Shop, Drafting: \$20
- Physical Education, English: \$5
- Backyard Botany: \$5
- Chemistry, Biology, other science: \$10

At all buildings, expenses not covered by fees are made up out of the district's general fund.

Families can also apply to have fees waived in cases of financial strain or hardship. No one is denied materials because of inability to pay fees. Unpaid fees are made up out of the district's general fund. To apply for a fee waiver, see your building principal.



fact: [fakt] n 1. a thing that has actually happened or is really true; 2. reality

West Carrollton fees compare well around area

How school fees schedules are structured varies widely depending on how specific school districts are structured.

West Carrollton Schools continues to offer one of the area's lowest fee structures.

Many area school districts are similar to WCSD in that elementary grades

1 through 5 are grouped in buildings together.

The middle school model of grades 6, 7 and 8 is also more common today than the junior high model of 7 and 8 or 7, 8, 9 of a generation ago.

In almost all cases, high school fees depend upon course selection.

In some districts, fees are set by

building, regardless of grade level. In other districts, the opposite is the case.

Some schools charge by activity or course a few have no fees.

Many districts facing challenges at the ballot box have been forced to create or raise fees in recent years. Others who have been successful have been able to reduce or hold fees down.

Tuition for all-day kindergarten now allowed by law

All day kindergarten has made the news in recent months as parents who were asked to pay tuition for such programs complained to the Ohio Department of Education.

Legislation signed by Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland on Nov. 14 included a provision that allows such charges.

After hearing concerns from parents, State Superintendent Susan Tave Zelman sought an opinion on the issue from Ohio Attorney General Marc Dann. Dann's opinion stated that

schools could not charge tuition for all-day kindergarten programs.

Schools – and some parents –, concerned they would have to end popular programs, appealed to legislators who added the issue to House Bill 190, a conglomerate of education issues.

The amendment allowing districts to charge tuition for all day kindergarten passed the Senate unanimously. The amended bill passed the house 95-1. Other major provisions of the bill

include a requirement for tougher rules on teacher misconduct and adjustments to the Ohio Achievement Test schedule beginning next spring.

Of Ohio's 613 districts, 448 offer all-day kindergarten. Of that number, 122 have all-day kindergarten through Poverty Based Assistance Funding. Another 326 offer it by charging tuition or funding it locally. West Carrollton Schools does not currently offer all-day kindergarten. However, some enrichment programs are available.

Lottery not solution hoped for

For years, states employing lotteries to help subsidize education have heard complaints that not enough of their lottery revenue is used for education, report Ron Stodghill and Ron Nixon of *The New York Times*.

After an examination of lottery documents and additional interviews with lottery administrators and analysts, *The Times* found that lotteries accounted for less than one to five percent of total K-12 education revenue last year. The study included Ohio's lottery.

The majority of the money is apparently used to sustain the games themselves, which includes everything from marketing to prizes and vendor commissions.

Also, as lotteries continue to compete for just a small number of core players and increasingly try to persuade occasional customers to play more, nearly every state has increased, or is considering increasing, the size of its prizes. This could further shrink the percentage of each dollar going to

education and other socially responsible programs. In addition, some states have simply replaced money earmarked for education with lottery dollars.

Quotes from the article:

"Legislators merely substitute general revenue funds with lottery dollars so the schools don't really gain any additional funding," said O. Homer Erikson, dean of the business school at the University of Missouri in Kansas City, who co-wrote a national study on lottery money and school financing.

"It makes it harder for us to convince people that they still need to support education," said Brett McFadden, budget analyst with the Association of California School Administrators. "They think the lottery is taking care of education. We have to tell them we're only getting a few sprinkles, we're not even getting the icing on the cake."

Read the entire article at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/07/business/07lotto.html>.

**Got a question?
Still think the
pieces don't fit?**

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YOUR CONCERN!**

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