

**KINDERGARTEN FEE POLICY**

The Arlington School Committee is committed to offering Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) without an associated fee. Until it is eliminated, the fee will be administered in accordance with the following policy.

It is the policy of Arlington School Committee that all children are eligible to participate in FDK regardless of the ability to pay. The Arlington Public Schools encourage participation in school activities regardless of financial status. It is also the policy of the Arlington School Committee that those families, who can afford to pay, should pay the fee.

By May 1<sup>st</sup> each year, the School Department shall publish a fee schedule and payment plan for School Committee Approval.

The fee will be waived for a family if the family qualifies for free lunch or reduced if the family qualifies for reduced lunch under the Federal Free or Reduced Lunch Program.

The fee may be waived if the family is experiencing exigent circumstances such as an unforeseen medical problem, change in family status, change in employment status for one or both parents, or other emergencies. This type of waiver would require a discussion with the building principal.

It is important that the elementary school building Principal act as a facilitator for the family. If a family does not enroll for FDK the Principal should inquire as to why, and whether or not it is because of the fee or for other reasons. If necessary the building Principal should help the family communicate exigent circumstances to the Superintendent's office. Families who choose to enroll their children in the half day program shall receive the full academic benefit of the kindergarten program.

Each school year, the Administration will collect data on how many students are enrolled in kindergarten, how many choose FDK, how many students are waived from the fee payment based on the Federal Free or Reduced Lunch Program, and how many are waived based on exigent circumstances.

***Adopted: October 22, 2002***

***Amended: May 22, 2007***