

Hanover Public Schools

Matthew A. Ferron
Superintendent of Schools



Thomas R. Raab, Ed.D.
Business Manager

Deborah St. Ives
Assistant Superintendent

Joan Woodward
Student Services Director

Memorandum

To: Hanover School Committee
 From: Thomas R. Raab, Business Manager
 Cc: Matthew A. Ferron, Superintendent of Schools
 Date: January 18, 2017
 Re: Proposed Pre School Peer Tuition Increase for FY '18

As you are aware, Cedar School has a highly successful integrated preschool program. Our integrated classes enroll a maximum of 15 students including 8 peer models and 7 students receiving special education services. While the special education students receive services based on their IEPs, the peer models pay a modest tuition to access the program. Each section has a preschool special education teacher, a dedicated classroom paraprofessional and the shared support of ABA tutors, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Preschool sessions run 4 days per week for 2.5 hours per day. In addition, there are extended day services for students who require specially designed instruction and Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) discrete trials.

We are very pleased that interest in the program, both for peer models and students receiving services is on the rise. As a result, we included an additional 5th section of preschool in the current school year budget and we are planning for at least 5 sections in the FY '18 budget proposal. This increase aligns with our commitment to providing a high quality public school preschool option for all students living in Hanover, rather than conducting a lottery limiting peer access to the program. Currently, we've been able to accept all interested peers. As I mentioned above, our peer models pay tuition to attend the program and we believe it is very modest in comparison to surrounding private and public preschool programs. Over the past six years since the last tuition increase, both staff and materials costs have risen. The last change in the cost of tuition took place during the 2011-2012 school year. At that time, we increased the tuition from \$1,400 to \$1,500 annually. Currently, for \$150 per month or \$3.75/hour typical peers are receiving all of the benefits mentioned above. The consolidation into one preschool program at Cedar School three years ago allowed for efficiencies between the two programs and increased tuition was not necessary at that time. Now, three years later, to cover the increased cost of the program and to continue to provide a highly effective preschool program for Hanover residents, we are recommending tuition rate increase to \$1,750. Given our current enrollment, the increase would net an additional \$10,000 to be used to support the program.

I am respectfully requesting your consideration and vote this evening as we are preparing to publish preschool registration materials very soon. Thank you.