

PAY TO PARTICIPATE FEE STRUCTURE FAQs

QUESTION / COMMENT	ANSWER
Background	
Why are there pay to participate fees?	<p>P-CCS faced a \$5 million shortfall for 2015-2016 fiscal year and another large shortfall for 2016-17; to balance the budget, programmatic, staffing and operational cuts were supplemented by raising revenue where feasible in voluntary programs such as parking fees, summer school, and athletics/activities.</p> <p>While the change to a \$385 flat fee for school-funded sports for P-CEP student-athletes represents a significant increase for students participating in one sport, it is only a \$5 increase for high school students participating in two or more sports.</p>
How many students participate in co-curricular athletics and activities in P-CCS?	Over 1,900 PCEP students and 1,200 P-CCS middle school students participated in educational athletics. An additional approximately 1,250 students participated in non-athletic competitive clubs and activities.
Why are co-curricular activities and athletics important to the school experience?	Plymouth-Canton Community Schools considers co-curricular activities to be indispensable in promoting whole-person growth for our students, including in teaching skills and traits such time management, attendance, organization, perseverance, character, respect, personal development, honesty, adherence to rules, development of goals, acknowledgement of defeat/grace in victory, commitment to a greater good, effective communication, spirit and pride, development of lifelong relationships, citizenship, service, being a role model, and leadership.
Fee structure, payment, and assistance	
What are the fees to participate in a high school sport?	<p>\$385 one-time fee regardless of the number of sports in which a student participates, \$780 PCEP school-funded sports family maximum; \$880 P-CCS district (middle and high school school-funded sports ONLY) family cap. This fee covers unlimited participation for all school-funded sports for one student. The middle school athletics pay-to-participate structure has also changed and can be found at http://www.pccsk12.com/departments/athletics/middle-school .</p>
Why has P-CCS made the decision to go to a one-time payment unlimited sports model?	It is our strong belief that all students, especially those student athletes who are struggling learners, perform better academically while they are participating in a team sport. The structure, team environment, and academic eligibility requirements are extremely beneficial to students who might not have those supports built into their lives already. We want to incentivize students to play more sports, thus making additional sports free.
Will free-and-reduced lunch families still be exempt from the school-funded pay-to-participate fees?	Yes, families that qualify for the federal free and reduced lunch program will be exempt from school-sponsored pay- to-participate fees.
Can students be put on an installment plan to pay the fees? If so, how much will be required for each installment?	While an installment plan is not feasible, the fall deadline for payment has been extended until September 15. Please contact

	building APAA if there are extenuating circumstances. Please note that refunds will not be issued after August 26.
Is there any assistance for families that do not qualify for free and reduced lunch?	There is a modestly funded high school scholarship program set up with the Educational Excellence Foundation which can pay up to 50% of athletic fees; the application is found here and is due to the APAA listed below by August 26.
How has P-CCS tried to mitigate the impact of fee increase on families?	All students who participated in a sport last year or this year will be admitted into all regularly scheduled (except playoffs, fundraisers, or self-funded sports) home games at no charge. The price of a two-parent annual pass was also decreased.
Sports and activities impacted	
What sports does this one-time annual fee cover at the high schools?	These school-funded sports include football, cross country, volleyball, baseball, softball, soccer, swim/dive, track and field, tennis, gymnastics, wrestling, golf, and basketball.
What high school sports do NOT have to pay the one-time annual fee, and why?	Hockey (boys and girls), lacrosse (boys and girls), bowling (boys and girls), 9th grade baseball, pom, and cheer do not have to pay the fee because they are self-funded sports (families pay the expenses, minus administrative and operating costs).
There is a \$25 fee for sports that are self-funded. What sports fall under that category?	--Boys and girls hockey --Boys and girls lacrosse --Boys and girls bowling --9th grade baseball --Cheerleading --Pom pon
What is this fee for self-funded sports used for?	The self-funded fees of \$25 will offset the costs of administrative/secretarial costs (eligibility, scheduling, banquet award preparation, etc); payroll taxes and expenses for coaches and referees; and operational costs (field/facility maintenance, utilities, security).
Where do parents pay the \$25 administrative and operational fee for self-funded sports?	This fee will be paid directly to the team and the team will reimburse the district.
Why are some sports "School Funded," while others are "Self Funded"?	Since the mid-2000s, any new sports added to the P-CCS lineup have agreed to be self-funded. This was because there was significant student interest in additional sports, but the district's budget could not financially support more and more teams added to the district's offerings. While it was the hope to be able to fund these using general funds eventually, P-CCS's per-pupil allotment from the state of Michigan has continued to decrease since 2008, making this not feasible. It should be noted that some neighboring districts do not offer some sports that are "self funded" in PCCS.
Why is there an activities fee for P-CEP student activities?	Like athletics, co-curricular clubs and activities are valuable additions to our curriculum. However, these extracurriculars also require funds to operate, such as salaries for club/activity directors and advisors, facility upkeep, operational costs (maintenance, security, utilities, etc.), and materials. This small fee helps offset some of these extracurriculars' costs to the school

	<p>district, thus helping to keep more school district funds “in the classroom.”</p> <p>Additionally, many area schools, including many districts in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association, charge a fee for participation in non-athletic extracurricular clubs and activities.</p>
Which activities does the \$25 fee apply to?	All after-school non-athletic activities are subject to the fee.
Funding for athletics and activities	
How much money does P-CCS spend on athletics programs?	High school athletics generated approximately \$1 million in revenue and spent approximately \$2 million in expenses.
How does P-CCS spend approximately \$2 million on athletics?	<p>75%=salaries and fringe benefits (administration, secretarial, coaches, referees, game workers, ticket takers, etc.)</p> <p>10%=transportation</p> <p>10%=supplies and equipment</p> <p>5%=capital improvement and facilities</p>
Will P-CCS make a profit by raising the participation fees?	No. P-CCS allots approximately \$1 million from the general fund above participation fees and gate revenues to cover the shortfall.
Whom can I contact with additional questions?	
Who should I contact for questions about participation, registration, or payments?	<p>Assistant Principals of Activities and Athletics:</p> <p>CHS: Vernon Crump, vernon.crump@pccsk12.com</p> <p>PHS: Ray Miller, raymond.miller@pccsk12.com</p> <p>SHS: Tim Baechler, tim.baechler@pccsk12.com</p> <p>Middle School Athletic Coordinator:</p> <p>Clint Smiley, clint.smiley@pccsk12.com</p>