



Gower School District 62

Superintendent's Report

Appendix B



Date: February 18, 2026

Title: Proposed Student Registration/Activity and Bus Fees for 2026-27 (5 minutes)

Contact: Victor Simon vsimon@gower62.com

Background: The Board of Education annually reviews student fees. Student fees cover some of the District costs for consumable materials (workbooks), online subscriptions, and other instructional materials. At Gower Middle School, the District also collects a participant fee to support school activities and athletic teams. The District also collects a fee from families whose children ride the bus to and/or from school. Gower is not required under the *Illinois School Code* to provide bus service.

For more information regarding [Illinois State Board of Education guidance on School District Transportation](#), [this link](#) can be used. In addition a set of [Frequently Asked Questions related to District Transportation](#) which can be found [here](#). Note: Gower School District is considered a Common School District - Other (#02) in terms of Illinois State Board rules and regulations.

Student fees typically provide about 1.0% of the revenue that the district utilizes to provide high quality programs and services. This source of revenue is added to our District Education Fund which is generally around \$14,500,000 annually and almost entirely funded by local property taxes. Transportation Fees typically range from \$50,000-\$60,000 each school year and are used to supplement costs charged to the district's Transportation Fund which is generally about \$800,000 annually.

A review of our transportation program and fees was recommended in 2018-19 as part of the student fee recommendation submitted for 2019-20 school year fees. In response, Gower participated in a 5-district *Transportation Shared Services Feasibility Assessment* with School Bus Consultants (SBC); a partner with the Transpar Group of Companies, and local area districts; each providing transportation services to their students. Ridership data by distance has illustrated a significant degree of variance in our riders across the community ranging from less than ¼ mile to more than 2 miles away and most with a transportation hazard to consider (e.g. lack of sidewalks and an abundance of traffic [Rte. 83]). After consideration, there was no recommendation made at the time to place a minimum distance to school to qualify for the use of our transportation program or to create a tiered fee structure for riders by distance. Such recommendations remain as viable options to explore in subsequent years.

The review of our lease versus ownership program which highlighted the savings to the district in the form of fewer repairs over time as we maintain a newer fleet of buses in a leasing model was first presented to the Board of Education in [Superintendent's Report, Appendix G, Feb. 18, 2014](#). Increased route efficiency allowed the reduction from eight to six routes over a four-year transition period. An updated review of our current lease/purchase model was presented to the Board as part of the [Superintendent's Report, Appendix B - District School Bus Transportation Overview, Sept. 19, 2023](#). The development of a tiered fee structure for riders by distance and the placement of a minimum distance from school to qualify for the use of our transportation program were considered as part of this review as well and no recommendation was made at that time to incorporate either option. It was recommended to reconsider such options at a later date. Such an option has not been formally discussed since 2023.

Current State: In accordance with the [Superintendent Report, Appendix B - Proposed Student Registration and Bus Fees for 2025-26, Feb. 19, 2025](#), the recommendations for the 2026-2027 Student Registration/Activity, Lunch, Transportation and Summer School fees are as follows:

**General Fee Summary Chart by Grade Level and Fiscal Year
2026-2027 Recommendation**

Grade Level	2022-2023 50% reduction	2023-2024 50% reduction*	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Grades K – 4	\$65.00	\$65.00*	\$130.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	No increase expected	TBD
Grades 5 – 8	\$100.00	\$100.00*	\$200.00				
Plated Lunch Fee	\$3.75	\$4.25	\$4.25	\$4.25	Increase to \$4.75 expected	No increase expected	TBD
Sport/Activity Participant Fee	\$40.00/ea	\$40.00/ea	\$50.00/ea	\$50.00/ea	\$50.00/ea	Increase to \$60 expected	No increase expected
Transportation Fee (riders only)	\$75.00 per rider	\$150.00 per rider	\$175.00 per rider	\$175.00 per rider	\$200.00 per rider	TBD	TBD
Summer School* (Optional)	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$80	\$80	No increase expected	TBD

General Fee Summary Chart by Grade Level and Fiscal Year - [Presented Feb. 19, 2025](#)

Grade Level	2021-2022 50% reduction	2022-2023 50% reduction	2023-2024 50% reduction*	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
Grades K – 4	\$65.00	\$65.00	\$65.00*	\$130.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	No increase expected
Grades 5 – 8	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00*	\$200.00	\$200.00		
Plated Lunch Fee	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$4.25	\$4.25	\$4.25	Increase to \$4.75 expected	No increase expected
Sport/Activity Participant Fee	\$40.00/ea	\$40.00/ea	\$40.00/ea	\$50.00/ea	\$50.00/ea	\$50.00/ea	Increase to \$60 expected
Transportation Fee (riders only)	\$75.00 per rider	\$75.00 per rider	\$150.00 per rider	\$175.00 per rider	\$175.00 per rider	Increase to \$200 per rider expected	TBD
Summer School* (Optional)	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$80	TBD	TBD

* The Summer School Fee has been \$50/ student since 2012. Adjustment recommended to align more closely with other 'Activity Fees'.

General Fee Summary Chart by Grade Level and Fiscal Year - [Presented Feb. 20, 2024](#)

Grade Level	2020-2021 Fees Waived	2021-2022 50% reduction	2022-2023 50% reduction	2023-2024 50% reduction*	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Grades K – 4	~~\$130.00~~	\$65.00	\$65.00	\$65.00*	\$130.00	Increase to \$200 expected	Consolidate K-4 and 5-8 into a \$200 K-8 General Fee
Grades 5 – 8	~~\$200.00~~	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00*	\$200.00	No increase expected	
Plated Lunch Fee	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$4.25	\$4.25	No increase expected	Increase to \$4.75 expected
Sport/Activity Participant Fee	~~\$40.00/each~~	\$40.00/ea	\$40.00/ea	\$40.00/ea	\$50.00/ea	No increase expected	TBD
Transportation Fee (riders only)	~~\$150.00 per rider~~	\$75.00 per rider	\$75.00 per rider	\$150.00 per rider	\$175.00 per rider	TBD	TBD

To streamline and automate the payment process, credit card convenience/processing fees are incorporated into the general fee and not to be charged to the user during the annual registration process. Furthermore, questions regarding the development of a tiered fee structure for bus riders by distance and/or the placement of a minimum distance from school to qualify for the use of our transportation program will be moved to the 2026-2027 school year for any further consideration, at the earliest, and will not have an impact on the 2026-2027 school year.

General Fee Summary Chart by Grade Level and Fiscal Year: Historical Record

Grade Level	2009 – 2010	2010 – 2014	2014 – 2019	2019-2020	2020-2021^ Fees Waived	2021-2023^ 50% reduction	2023-2024
Grades K – 4*	\$110.00	\$110.00	\$120.00	\$130.00	~~\$130.00~~	\$65.00	\$65.00
Grades 5 – 8	\$150.00	\$181.00	\$190.00	\$200.00	~~\$200.00~~	\$100.00	\$100.00
Plated Lunch Fee	\$3.25 (from \$2.75)	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$4.25
Sport/Activity Participant Fee	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$35.00/ea	\$40.00/ea	~~\$40.00/each~~	\$40.00/ea	\$40.00/ea
Transportation Fee (riders only)	\$100, -\$25 additional rider(s)	\$100, -\$25 additional rider(s)	\$100.00 per rider	\$125.00 per rider	~~\$150.00 per rider~~	\$75.00 per rider	\$150.00 per rider

*1/2 Day Kindergarten Program fees were \$90 from 2009-14, and \$95 in 2015. Full Day K was implemented in 2015-16

^ Fees were waived for the 2020-21 school year by a Board-approved district recommendation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A continued reduction of 50% of pre-pandemic fees was also recommended for the 2021-22 school year as part of the [Superintendent's Report Appendix D - Proposed Student Fees - 2-16-21](#) and extended through the 2022-23 school year as part of the [Superintendent's Report Appendix B - Proposed Student Fees - 2-15-22](#) and again through the 2023-2024 school year as part of the [Superintendent's Report, Appendix B - Proposed Student Registration and Bus Fees for 2023-24, Feb. 21, 2023](#)

¹The District Superintendent previously recommended an adjustment to the Transportation Fee for 2020-21 from \$125.00/rider to \$150, as approved as part of the Feb. 19, 2019 Board Meeting ([Supt. Report Appendix B - Student and Transportation Fees - 2019-20](#)). And a subsequent adjustment the following school year to result in a 'dollar per day' or '50 cents a ride' fee structure which will approach the low end of the transportation fee range at school districts in the area ([Supt Report Appendix D - Proposed Student Fees - 2-18-20](#)).

Future State: (Board Motion) *I move that the Board of Education approve student fees for 2026-2027 as presented.*

We will revisit annual registration fee rates in 2026-27 to make a decision about subsequent school years in accordance with the table shared above.



Gower School District 62

Registration Fee Form for the 2026-2027 School Year



Please complete and submit a separate form for EACH child

USE THIS FORM OR COMPLETE THE "FEE FORM" BY USING THE POWERSCHOOL ONLINE PAYMENT OPTION

Student Name: _____ Grade Entering 2026-2027: _____

Required Annual Registration Fee:

Entering Grade K – 8: Fee \$200.00 _____

☐ Check if qualified for Free-Reduced Meals/Waiver of School Fees (New Application available August 1st)

ONLINE PAYMENT: Login to your PowerSchool Parent Portal. Click "Forms" on the left side of the Navigation bar. Then click "Enrollment" where you will find "Fee Form 2026-2027" to click, complete and submit.

PAYMENT BY CASH/CHECK: Combine all fees on this form and make check payable to *Gower School District 62* and submit to:

Gower West Elementary School
7650 Clarendon Hills Road
Willowbrook, Illinois 60527

OR

Gower Middle School
7941 S. Madison Street
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527

Optional Transportation Annual Registration Fee:

Transportation K – 8: Fee \$200.00 (Required only if using bus service; per student) _____

PLEASE NOTE - Registration and payment for bus service after August 1, 2026 will result in a 2-week delay for route placement.

ONLINE PAYMENT: After completing your registration forms in the PowerSchool Parent Portal and requesting transportation via the Gower Fee Form, an option to pay with Credit Card or Offline (check) is included for payment of fees on the form. There is no processing fee for using a credit card. If you choose to pay by cash or check, see section above.

Optional Dues/Donations to support Gower 62 Parent Organizations/Activities:

P.T.O. (Parent Teacher Organization)

Student/Classroom Activity Fee:

- **\$15.00 Per student.** Provides for food, drinks, parties & activities throughout the school year. _____

Family Dues:

- **\$20.00 Per family.** Supports classroom & school-wide events/programs & a PTO Family/Staff Directory. _____

List siblings only if paying PTO family dues: _____

Charitable Donation to the P.T.O. – (any amount is appreciated)

*Donations support PTO-sponsored school programs/activities and may be tax deductible _____

Charitable Donation to the Gower Foundation – (any amount is appreciated)

*Donations support Gower Foundation-sponsored school programs/activities and may be tax deductible _____

ONLINE PAYMENT: Login to your PowerSchool Parent Portal. Click "Forms" on the left side of the Navigation bar. Then click "Enrollment" where you will find "Fee Form 2026-2027" to click and complete and submit.

PAYMENT BY CASH/CHECK: See section above

Total paid: _____

Please select your payment option:

- ☐ Cash enclosed ☐ Check or Money Order enclosed payable to *Gower School District 62*