



Eastside Cooperative Preschool launched a new tuition model beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

In February of 2023, ECP Board Members voted to replace our single rate tuition model with a three tier tuition rate model, outlined below.

A note from the board:

Choosing cooperative preschool means your family is involved in running our school and available to participate regularly in the classroom. The benefits of involvement are many, but we know there is also a cost to having someone available during the day. We are a registered non-profit and value transparency with all our operational costs. We also want our preschool to be accessible to any family who wants to become a member. For these reasons, we have created a tiered pricing model that reflects our true costs and offers options more reflective of our families' varying budgets.

Our hopes with this change:

- Increase accessibility
- Increase transparency
- Increase community

What has ECP been doing prior to this change?

Prior to this, ECP has offered a single tuition rate per class. \$130/mo for Red and \$190/mo for Yellow and Blue. Families who were interested in scholarship assistance submitted a scholarship application which was then reviewed by the Scholarship Committee. These tuition rates were intended to be financially accessible to families but were also less than the basic operating costs of running the school. The remaining funds needed each year became our "fundraising goal" and a per family fundraising obligation/buyout value was assigned.

The new model:

Moving forward, ECP will offer families three tuition rate tiers per class. At registration, families will be able to choose the tuition rate that fits their family budget best. The tiers are intended to be flexible and accessible and reflect the natural ebb and flow of family finances. Families may request to move up or down the tiers during the year if needed or in the case of multiple students, choose different tiers for each child. This self-selection model replaces our current scholarship application process. While this model will not eliminate an annual "fundraising goal" it does replace the per family fundraising obligation/buyout with a community driven effort announced/planned each year at the annual October All Member Meeting.

Generosity Rate 125% of full cost of the program

Red class:\$225/month Yellow/Blue classes: \$313/month

By choosing this rate, you are giving ECP additional funds to pay for unexpected costs. Your generosity also enables others with less means to take part, including through scholarships.

This rate may be for you, if...

...the Supporting rate would be applicable to your personal circumstances, but you'd like to give more
...you are committed to making our school more accessible to others.

Supporting Rate 100% of full cost of the program

Red class:\$180/month Yellow/Blue classes: \$250/month

By choosing this rate, you directly support ECP to cover basic costs

This rate may be for you, if you...

...have the capacity to meet your basic financial needs
...can pay your rent or mortgage and other monthly payments
...are generally able to purchase new items and experiences for yourself

Supported Rate 75% of full cost of the program

Red class:\$130/month Yellow/Blue classes: \$190/month

If you have limited financial capacity, you may wish to choose this rate. The contributions ECP receives at this level are supported by fundraising and the Generosity Rate.

This rate may be for you, if you...

...stress about meeting your basic needs, but still regularly achieve them.
...may have some debt, but it does not prohibit attainment of basic needs.
...may have access to some financial savings and/or some expendable income.

Access Rate 50% of full cost of the program

Red class:\$90/month Yellow/Blue classes: \$125/month

If you have extremely limited financial capacity and paying for preschool would be a significant hardship, you may wish to choose this rate. The contributions ECP receives at this level are supported by fundraising and the Generosity Rate.

This rate may be for you, if you...

...are experiencing housing, employment, or income instability
...live paycheck-to-paycheck and lack money in times of need
...would otherwise be unable to attend the school due to the cost.

Timeline for families:

At Registration \$100 Registration Fee Due
By August 1 \$100 Activity Fee + September Tuition (a half month)
Due October 1 - May 1 Monthly Tuition Due

What does this look like in real time?

During the registration window, current, alumni and new families will indicate which tuition level they would like to commit to, (with the understanding that things change throughout the year and that they are able to move up or down as needed). They will pay their \$100 Registration Fee to secure their spot. This fee is non-refundable. After spring enrollment is completed, and prior to the October All Member Meeting, the Board will calculate the anticipated “fundraising goal” needed to cover the Supported/Scholarship rates. Since family needs change from year to year, this “fundraising goal” will also change. The money raised each year will allow us to continue to offer affordable tuition to the families that come after us.

Over the summer, each family will pay a \$100 Activity Fee, non-refundable, and their September (half month) tuition, which is refundable if they give the usual 2 weeks notice required throughout the school year. This new Activity Fee is meant to cover the cost of special class-related activities (t-shirts, field trips, yearbooks, extra supplies, etc.). This combined payment is due by August 1.

At the October All Member Meeting, the “fundraising goal” will be announced and added to our website. We will prioritize grants, donations of varying frequencies and possible revenue from publicity event participation to cover this goal. We would all be able to monitor and celebrate our progress via the website.

Starting October 1 and continuing through May 1, families would pay the 8 remaining full month tuition payments at the tier they chose. Again, families may request to move up or down as needed/desired throughout the year, and there is not a cap on how many families can be at each tier.

How this model adjusts over time:

The Sustaining tuition level is intended to cover operating costs, which we can anticipate to continually increase over the years. Therefore, each year, the Sustaining tier values would be reviewed and adjusted, when needed, to accommodate this increase based on our projected budget. The Supported tier would increase by the same value. For example, if Sustaining needed to be increased by \$10, then Supported would increase by \$10 as well. Scholarship would always be calculated as half of the Sustaining tier values.

Tuition for Siblings
→ Registration fee will be reduced to \$50 for a second child and a \$35/mo discount will be applied to the second child’s tuition tier.
→ Siblings are not required to be registered at the same tuition tier.

We are stronger together than we are apart. Please don't hesitate to reach out: ecpboardchair@gmail.com