



January 28, 2021

Purpose of Communication

SCA Society fees have been the subject of many ongoing discussions over the past year. There has been confusion among parents on where fees are directed, and a number of them have been pursuing answers. This topic has lacked the necessary transparency to ensure parents have a clear understanding and that their voices are heard. The purpose of this letter is to provide transparency to parents and invite active discussion regarding the nature of the fees.

The SCA Society board has worked with Elk Island Public Schools to draft this communication to clarify understanding on the use of fees charged by the Society. A Society board member has been attending all SCA School Council meetings this year with the intent to keep the lines of communication open with our parent groups.

SCA Society Fees

Section 9.2.1 of the SCA Program Agreement between Elk Island Public Schools and the SCA Society provides that the Society can determine what fees it will charge parents to cover its costs for the extra components it provides to the SCA Program. The amount of fees charged and costs covered by fees (per student) are outlined below:

Cost per student <i>(based on 2021 budgeted numbers)</i>	
\$250 (18%)	Christian programming which includes campus pastors, chapels, Bible resources, retreats. These costs are set by SCA Society through ministry planning with school principals.
+\$140 (10%)	Administration costs including salaries, professional services, computer services, insurance, office and supplies. These costs are set by SCA Society through ministry planning with school principals.
+\$285 (21%)	Facility operating costs above what's paid by EIPS. These costs exist because the schools have access to more space per student than other schools. These costs include janitorial, power, heat, insurance, water and waste removal. These costs are managed by Sherwood Park Alliance Church (SPAC) and charged to SCA Society as a total.
+\$275 (20%)	Contribution to maintenance reserve for building repairs. These costs exist because we do not receive government funding for our building maintenance. Major projects in 2019/2020 included elementary library carpet, playground maintenance, roof drain replacements, secondary roofing, roof top HVAC units and parking lot and exterior repairs. These costs are managed by SPAC and charged to SCA Society as a total.

+ \$375 (28%)	Facility capital costs. Part of these costs fund the elementary campus mortgage taken on when the school was built. The remainder is used for capital improvement items. This year \$500K has been budgeted for the elementary playground expansion, the secondary gym refurbishment, the secondary data network upgrade and secondary access control. These costs are managed by SPAC and charged to SCA Society as a total.
\$35 (3%)	Other expenses which include online schooling fee reductions and scholarships. Fees were reduced for all students electing to receive education online for the school year and for all SCA Secondary students for the month of December due to COVID restrictions. These costs are set by SCA Society in discussions with SPAC.
= \$1360	Total Fee per student (Kindergarten children are charged fees of \$904 / student and non-Kindergarten in-school learners are charged fees of \$1394 / student for an average cost of \$1,360 / student)

These fees charged to parents reflect the costs of funding the SCA Society Alternative Program.

Fee Assistance and Affordability of Program

Parents should be aware that section 2.4 of the Agreement reads as follows: No child shall be refused enrolment in SCA as a result of parental inability or refusal to pay the fees referenced in section 9.2.1. Compassionate funding is available to ensure that the SCA program remains accessible to all families. Every effort will be made to support any family having financial concerns.

Alternative funding initiatives will continue to be examined in order to make the program as affordable for parents as possible without impacting the sustainability of the program. Further updates will be provided as potential options are developed.

Additional Questions

If you have any additional questions around financial or other matters, please feel free to reach out to the SCA Society board through our website <https://scasociety.ca/contact-us> and your inquiry will be addressed.