

## **Analysis of High School Athletic Team Costs Per Student**

In response to a question from a member of the Board of Finance, on March 21<sup>st</sup> the School Administration provided a breakdown of the cost of each athletic team at both high schools. These breakdowns are provided in the Appendix. The total of the two schools' costs is \$534,415.

Last year, in the "packet" dated 5/17/13 distributed in advance of the BOE meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>, the School Administration also provided a breakdown, with the costs at both high schools aggregated. This breakdown is also provided in the Appendix. The total of the two schools' costs was \$1,466,614.

Clearly, the cost breakdowns distributed most recently are not complete.

Some observations based on the breakdown provided a year ago are as follows:

1. The total cost per student for all sports was \$624 ( $\$1,466,614 / 2,349$  students).
2. The **highest cost per student** was Boys Ice Hockey at \$2,273 ( $\$56,822 / 25$ ). However, the latest breakdown notes that: "This worksheet does not include the cost of boys ice hockey as we will be reapplying for COOP status as our numbers for each school are back below the maximum allowed for COOP ice hockey." We don't yet know what this means.
3. Other high-cost sports included: Boys' Swimming (\$2,058), Girls' Ice Hockey (\$1,932), Gymnastics (\$1,340), Girls' Golf (\$1,232) and Softball (\$1,082).
4. The **lowest cost per student** was Cross Country at \$195 ( $\$33,120 / 170$  students).
5. Other low-cost sports included: Girls' Track & Field (\$272), Boys' Indoor Track (\$275), Girls' Indoor Track (\$314), Boys' Track & Field (\$324), and Fencing (\$340).
6. The number of participants was reasonably consistent year-to-year in most cases, with the following exceptions: Girls' Basketball jumped from 56 to 67, Field Hockey dropped from 104 to 82, Boys' Indoor Track jumped from 82 to 109, Girls' Indoor Track jumped from 78 to 92, Boys' Tennis jumped from 44 to 51, Boys' Volleyball jumped from 30 to 40, and Wrestling jumped from 54 to 82. Total participants were 2,274 in 2014-15 versus 2,349 a year earlier. Dr. Title's presentation in January noted 2,252 participants.
7. The **most expensive** sport in absolute terms was Football at \$142,179, followed by Baseball at \$73,197, and by Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse at \$69,529 and \$68,321, respectively.
8. The **least expensive** sport was Bowling at \$7,022, followed by Fencing at \$11,543 and Sailing at \$17,429.
9. We have no way of knowing whether all related costs were included in the totals. For example, there may be insurance and nursing costs associated with these activities that are carried on the Town budget.
10. We have also included in the Appendix what we believe is the latest report from Connecticut's Office of Legislative Research on Pay-to-Play Requirements in 44 other towns. For example, Darien, Weston and Wilton all had pay-to-play fees as of 2012.
11. Some have proposed that there should be participation fees not only for high school sports, but also for other extracurricular activities. For example, we do not know the cost of our high schools' Music Programs, but with many fewer participants (775 versus 2,452 per Dr. Title's presentation), it is likely that the cost per student is much higher for music than for athletics.

## APPENDIX

### 2014-2015 Budget Worksheet FAIRFIELD LUDLOWE HS

Sport or Category	Students	Transportation	Personnel	Supplies	Recondition	Fees	Total
Awards/Printing	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,000
Baseball	54	\$ 5,344	\$ 4,592	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 75	\$ 13,511
Basketball (boys)	36	\$ 5,344	\$ 8,677	\$ 250	\$ 150	\$ 100	\$ 14,520
Basketball (girls)	28	\$ 5,344	\$ 8,677	\$ 250	\$ 150	\$ 100	\$ 14,520
Cheerleading	30	\$ 2,672	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 1,475	\$ 5,147
Cross Country	87	\$ 4,410	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ 200	\$ 560	\$ 5,470
FCIAC	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,800
Field Hockey	52	\$ 4,110	\$ 4,627	\$ 5,500	\$ 800	\$ 175	\$ 15,212
Fitness Center	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000
Football	95	\$ 4,727	\$ 8,307	\$ 1,200	\$ 7,200	\$ 100	\$ 21,534
Golf (boys)	12	\$ 2,466	\$ -	\$ 350	\$ -	\$ 175	\$ 2,991
Golf (girls)	12	\$ 2,466	\$ -	\$ 350	\$ -	\$ 175	\$ 2,991
Gymnastics	14	\$ 1,439	\$ 1,441	\$ 300	\$ 250	\$ 400	\$ 3,830
Ice Hockey (girls)	24	\$ 3,083	\$ 3,041	\$ 450	\$ 600	\$ 100	\$ 7,274
Indoor Track (B)	41	\$ 2,481	\$ 350	\$ 400	\$ 100	\$ 1,125	\$ 4,456
Indoor Track (G)	39	\$ 2,481	\$ 350	\$ 400	\$ 100	\$ 1,125	\$ 4,456
Lacrosse (boys)	78	\$ 5,344	\$ 6,117	\$ 800	\$ 1,400	\$ 75	\$ 13,736
Lacrosse (girls)	52	\$ 5,344	\$ 6,117	\$ 5,600	\$ 1,400	\$ 75	\$ 18,536
Prof. Dev.	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,020	\$ 2,020
Rugby		\$ 1,103	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 550	\$ 1,753
Sailing	18	\$ 2,205	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 1,680	\$ 4,135
Skiing (FLHS)	21	\$ 5,796	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,796
Soccer (boys)	58	\$ 4,316	\$ 4,062	\$ 450	\$ 300	\$ 145	\$ 9,273
Soccer (girls)	61	\$ 4,316	\$ 4,062	\$ 450	\$ 300	\$ 145	\$ 9,273
Softball	23	\$ 4,932	\$ 4,078	\$ 900	\$ 500	\$ 75	\$ 10,486
Swimming (boys)	13	\$ 2,466	\$ 1,199	\$ 1,200	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ 5,266
Swimming (girls)	26	\$ 2,466	\$ 1,199	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ 5,566
Tennis (boys)	22	\$ 3,288	\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 100	\$ 175	\$ 4,363
Tennis (girls)	28	\$ 3,288	\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 100	\$ 175	\$ 4,363
Track/Field (B)	45	\$ 2,757	\$ 2,164	\$ 400	\$ 150	\$ 250	\$ 5,721
Track/Field (G)	68	\$ 2,757	\$ 2,164	\$ 400	\$ 150	\$ 250	\$ 5,721
Training Room	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000
Volleyball (boys)	15	\$ 3,494	\$ 3,346	\$ 500	\$ 100	\$ 75	\$ 7,515
Volleyball (girls)	44	\$ 4,521	\$ 4,125	\$ 500	\$ 100	\$ 75	\$ 9,322
Wrestling	27	\$ 4,110	\$ 3,974	\$ 2,850	\$ 300	\$ 1,625	\$ 12,859
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1123</b>	<b>\$ 108,869</b>	<b>\$ 82,671</b>	<b>\$ 40,250</b>	<b>\$ 17,950</b>	<b>\$ 19,675</b>	<b>\$ 269,415</b>

This worksheet does not include the cost of boys ice hockey as we will be reapplying for COOP status as our numbers for each school are back below the maximum allowed for COOP ice hockey.

2014-2015 Budget Worksheet  
FAIRFIELD WARDE HIGH SCHOOL

Sport or Category	Students	Transportation	Personnel	Supplies	Recondition	Fees	Total
Awards/Printing	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500
Baseball	54	\$ 4,804	\$ 4,592	\$ 1,185	\$ 2,000	\$ 75	\$ 12,656
Basketball (boys)	36	\$ 4,804	\$ 8,677	\$ 200	\$ 150	\$ 100	\$ 13,930
Basketball (girls)	28	\$ 4,804	\$ 8,677	\$ 200	\$ 150	\$ 100	\$ 13,930
Bowling	14	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 395	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ 695
Cheerleading	30	\$ 2,412	\$ -	\$ 395	\$ 500	\$ 1,475	\$ 4,782
Cross Country	87	\$ 3,970	\$ -	\$ 240	\$ 200	\$ 560	\$ 4,970
FCIAC	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,800
Fencing	32	\$ 2,477	\$ 600	\$ 790	\$ 350	\$ 800	\$ 5,017
Field Hockey	52	\$ 3,700	\$ 4,627	\$ 4,345	\$ 800	\$ 175	\$ 13,647
Fitness Center	0		\$ -	\$ 790	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,790
Football	95	\$ 4,247	\$ 8,307	\$ 950	\$ 7,164	\$ 100	\$ 20,768
Golf (boys)	12	\$ 2,216	\$ -	\$ 275	\$ -	\$ 175	\$ 2,666
Golf (girls)	12	\$ 2,216	\$ -	\$ 275	\$ -	\$ 175	\$ 2,666
Gymnastics	14	\$ 1,294	\$ 1,441	\$ 225	\$ 250	\$ 400	\$ 3,610
Ice Hockey (boys)	24	\$ 2,773	\$ 3,916	\$ 7,306	\$ 600	\$ 100	\$ 14,695
Indoor Track (B)	41	\$ 2,231	\$ 350	\$ 315	\$ 100	\$ 1,125	\$ 4,121
Indoor Track (G)	39	\$ 2,231	\$ 350	\$ 315	\$ 100	\$ 1,125	\$ 4,121
Lacrosse (boys)	78	\$ 4,804	\$ 6,117	\$ 630	\$ 1,400	\$ 75	\$ 13,026
Lacrosse (girls)	52	\$ 4,804	\$ 6,117	\$ 4,425	\$ 1,400	\$ 75	\$ 16,821
Prof. Dev.	0		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,020	\$ 2,020
Skiing (FWHS)	21	\$ 5,216	\$ -	\$ 670	\$ 150	\$ 8,100	\$ 14,136
Soccer (boys)	58	\$ 3,886	\$ 4,062	\$ 355	\$ 300	\$ 145	\$ 8,748
Soccer (girls)	61	\$ 3,886	\$ 4,062	\$ 355	\$ 300	\$ 145	\$ 8,748
Softball	23	\$ 4,432	\$ 4,078	\$ 700	\$ 500	\$ 75	\$ 9,786
Swimming (boys)	13	\$ 2,216	\$ 1,199	\$ 945	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ 4,761
Swimming (girls)	26	\$ 2,216	\$ 1,199	\$ 1,185	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ 5,001
Tennis (boys)	22	\$ 2,958	\$ -	\$ 625	\$ 100	\$ 175	\$ 3,858
Tennis (girls)	28	\$ 2,958	\$ -	\$ 625	\$ 100	\$ 175	\$ 3,858
Track/Field (B)	45	\$ 2,477	\$ 2,164	\$ 315	\$ 150	\$ 250	\$ 5,356
Track/Field (G)	68	\$ 2,477	\$ 2,164	\$ 315	\$ 150	\$ 250	\$ 5,356
Training Room	0	\$ 3,144	\$ -	\$ 2,350	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,494
Volleyball (boys)	15	\$ 4,071	\$ 3,346	\$ 395	\$ 100	\$ 75	\$ 7,988
Volleyball (girls)	44	\$ 3,700	\$ 4,125	\$ 395	\$ 100	\$ 75	\$ 8,396
Wrestling	27	\$ 4,110	\$3,973.95 !	\$ 2,250	\$ 300	\$ 1,625	\$ 8,285
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1151</b>	<b>\$ 101,533</b>	<b>\$ 80,173</b>	<b>\$ 38,236</b>	<b>\$ 18,714</b>	<b>\$ 26,345</b>	<b>\$ 265,000</b>

2013-2014 Budget Worksheet  
 FAIRFIELD LUDLOWE HS / FAIRFIELD WARDE HS

Sport or Category	Part.	Cost	Rentals	Total
Awards/Printing	0	\$12,000	\$1,560	\$13,560
Baseball	109	\$73,197	\$0	\$73,197
Basketball (boys)	74	\$64,101	\$0	\$64,101
Basketball (girls)	67	\$64,133	\$0	\$64,133
Bowling	13	\$3,022	\$4,000	\$7,022
Cheerleading	55	\$38,104	\$0	\$38,104
Cross Country	170	\$33,120	\$0	\$33,120
FCIAC	0	\$11,600	\$0	\$11,600
Fencing	34	\$11,543	\$0	\$11,543
Field Hockey	82	\$52,568	\$0	\$52,568
Fitness Center	0	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
Football	195	\$142,179	\$0	\$142,179
Golf (boys)	30	\$25,507	\$0	\$25,507
Golf (girls)	18	\$22,180	\$0	\$22,180
Gymnastics	29	\$31,073	\$7,800	\$38,873
Ice Hockey (girls)	24	\$23,623	\$22,750	\$46,373
Ice Hockey (boys)	25	\$24,452	\$32,370	\$56,822
Indoor Track (B)	109	\$29,979	\$0	\$29,979
Indoor Track (G)	92	\$28,876	\$0	\$28,876
Lacrosse (boys)	139	\$69,529	\$0	\$69,529
Lacrosse (girls)	115	\$68,321	\$0	\$68,321
Prof. Dev.	0	\$4,040	\$0	\$4,040
Rugby	0	\$1,726	\$0	\$1,726
Sailing	18	\$13,229	\$4,200	\$17,429
Skiing	50	\$23,246	\$8,100	\$31,346
Soccer (boys)	112	\$52,428	\$0	\$52,428
Soccer (girls)	116	\$52,278	\$0	\$52,278
Softball	50	\$54,081	\$0	\$54,081
Swimming (boys)	22	\$38,203	\$7,066	\$45,269
Swimming (girls)	52	\$37,853	\$7,916	\$45,768
Tennis (boys)	51	\$29,049	\$0	\$29,049
Tennis (girls)	58	\$29,825	\$0	\$29,825
Track/Field (B)	107	\$34,685	\$0	\$34,685
Track/Field (G)	131	\$35,577	\$0	\$35,577
Training Room	0	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000
Volleyball (boys)	40	\$24,254	\$0	\$24,254
Volleyball (girls)	80	\$44,478	\$0	\$44,478
Wrestling	82	\$56,792	\$0	\$56,792
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2349</b>	<b>\$1,370,852</b>	<b>\$95,762</b>	<b>\$1,466,614</b>

\$1,560 is storage rental



# OLR RESEARCH REPORT

February 15, 2012

2012-R-0069

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT PAY-TO-PLAY REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL SPORTS**

By: Hendrik deBoer, Research Fellow

Mark Randall, Research Fellow

You asked which school districts require high-school students to pay to participate in extracurricular school sports (i.e., “pay-to-play”). For those that do, you asked (1) which sports require a fee, (2) for the amount of the fee, (3) if there is a cap on the amount a student or family must pay per year, (4) the policy for waiving the fee, and (5) how much of the sport's cost the fee covers.

### **METHODOLOGY**

We initially e-mailed school districts a survey regarding participation fees. We received only a small response. We followed up by calling high schools, e-mailing high school athletic directors, and researching school and district websites.

### **PAY-TO-PLAY FEES IN CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

We obtained information from 116 school districts. Of these, 44 charge a participation fee for high-school athletics. The fees range from \$25 per sport to \$1,450 for ice hockey. Twenty nine school districts include a maximum amount that a student, family, or both can be charged during a single school year. Schools without a cap are generally those that charge the lowest fees.

Only four schools provided information about how much of the sport's costs the fees cover. The percentage of cost covered by the fees ranged from 10% to 50%.

All of the schools allow the participation fees to be waived or reduced for students with financial need, usually based on whether the student is eligible for reduced-price or free lunches.

Table 1 details 44 school districts' pay-to-play programs.

**Table 1: Pay-To-Play Programs in Certain School Districts**

<b>School District</b>	<b>Fee Amount (per student)</b>	<b>Yearly Cap</b>	<b>Additional Costs for Specific Sports</b>	<b>% of Cost Covered by Fees</b>
Avon	\$175/Team	Two sports/Student  Four sports/family	\$75 for Crew	N/A
Berlin	\$1450/Hockey	None	N/A	N/A
Bolton	\$50/Team	\$250/Family	None	N/A
Canton	\$100/Team	\$175/Student \$300/Family	None	N/A
Cheshire	\$100/Sport	\$500/Family	\$100 for hockey	15%
Colchester	\$150/Team	\$450/Student or family	None	N/A
Coventry	\$25/Sport	None	None	N/A
Darien	\$100/Year	None	None	N/A
E. Granby	\$100/Year	\$150/Family	None	N/A
E. Hampton	\$150/Sport	\$450/Family	None	N/A
E. Windsor	\$100/Sport	None	None	N/A
Enfield	\$100/Sport	\$200/Student \$400/family	\$500 for hockey, \$100 for golf	N/A
Farmington	\$100/Sport	\$400/Family	None	N/A
Granby	\$75/Sport	\$150/student \$300/family	None	N/A
Killingly	\$100/Sport	\$100/Family	None	N/A
Ledyard	\$100/Sport	\$200/Student \$400/family	None	N/A
Madison	\$75/Sport	\$450/Family	None	N/A
Milford	\$850/Hockey	None	N/A	10%
Monroe	\$250/Team	\$1000/Family	None	N/A
Naugatuck	\$50/Sport	\$200/Student	None	N/A
New Fairfield	\$100/Sport	None	None	N/A
New Milford	\$75/Year	None	\$375 for hockey, \$100 for golf	N/A
Newington	\$75/Sport	\$150/Student	None	N/A
Newtown	\$100-\$200/Sport	\$450/Family	None	N/A

Oxford	\$75/Sport	\$150/Student \$300/family	None	N/A
Region 08	\$185 /Year	\$185/Student	None	N/A
Region 10	\$200 - \$300 / Football	450/Family	N/A	N/A
Region 13	\$40/Year	None	None	N/A
Region 15	\$100/Sport	\$400/Family	None	N/A
Ridgefield	\$225/Sport	None	None	N/A
S. Windsor	\$125/Sport	\$500/Family (\$800/Family for hockey)	\$275 for hockey	N/A
Shelton	\$100- \$300/Sport	None	None	N/A
Simsbury	\$175/Sport	\$700/Family	\$200 for hockey and swimming	50%
Somers	\$50/Sport	\$200/Family	None	N/A
Stafford	\$50/Sport	None	None	N/A
Thomaston	\$50/Sport	None	None	N/A
Tolland	\$275/Sport	None	None	N/A
Trumbull	\$250/Sport	\$750/Family (\$900/Family for hockey)	\$250 for hockey	N/A
Wallingford	\$100/Sport	\$200/Student \$300/family	None	N/A
Watertown	\$110/Sport	No cap	None	N/A
W. Hartford	\$125/Sport	\$375/Family	None	N/A
Weston	\$75/Sport	\$300/Family	None	25%
Wethersfield	\$60-90/Sport \$400/Hockey	\$200/Student \$350/family	None	N/A
Wilton	\$50/Year	None	None	N/A

Source: High school and board of education websites and staff

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2012/rpt/2012-R-0069.htm>