



**NOEEN Steering Committee
Pre-K Tuition Discussion
March 2018**



Tuition Overview

- **Offering tuition-based seats allows schools to increase socio-economic diversity and allows the network to disperse limited LA4 seats to more schools.**
- **Most schools lose money on LA4.** At \$4,580 per child, schools receive less funding for PK4 than for older grades, even though LA4 classrooms need to meet much higher standards in terms of class size (20) and teacher-child ratios (1:10).

Current Tuition Policy

Which programs are affected?

PK4 programs that also serve LA4 children

How can schools offer LA 4-PK4 Tuition Combination Programs?

- Schools must indicate a plan to provide tuition PK4 seats in writing through NOEEN's Coordinated Funding Request.
- All charter schools shall charge no more than \$4,580 total for the school year for PK4 Tuition unless the charter school makes a formal request to charge a higher amount. Requests must be included in the Coordinated Funding Request and must include the proposed tuition amount(s) and written justification or documentation demonstrating that the tuition amount for any child does not exceed the average per child amount the school spends for LA 4 eligible children in the class, excluding the costs for classroom space and utilities.

When can tuition be charged?

Tuition may be charged for any child who does not meet eligibility requirements (185% or less of the Federal Poverty Level) or has an IEP (funded through MFP).

Problem Statement

Current policy/Practice	Considerations & Possible Solutions
The CFR process has not explicitly collected information about how much tuition sites wish to charge.	The CFR process should be amended to explicitly address the amount of tuition, to include requesting consistent information requested for waivers to charge tuition in excess of \$4,580.
Many schools are unaware that a waiver process (to charge more) exists.	The CFR should address this explicitly.
The policy is not clear on which body has the authority to approve tuition in excess of \$4,580, nor is it clear on which basis waivers will be approved or denied.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the NOEEN Steering Committee vote as an action item for all tuition requests collected in the CFR process?• Or only above a threshold (what is that threshold?)• Guidelines for making these decisions should be developed.

Problem Statement

Current policy/Practice	Considerations & Possible Solutions
Enforcement and repercussions are unclear.	Which agency is responsible for oversight of tuition charges? ➤ What are the repercussions?
Due to school closures and takeovers, several schools have started PK programs outside the normal CFR process.	The policy should address how decisions are made if LA4 seats are allocated outside the standard CFR process. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If NOEEN Steering Committee approval is needed, is electronic voting permitted (expedited decisions may be necessary due to EnrollNOLA Main Round deadlines)?

Suggested Revisions

	Suggested Change		Intended Impact
1	Include language in the policy: "Each/all request(s) for tuition approval(s) must be voted and approved, by simple majority, of the NOEEN Steering Committee."	▶	Schools are informed of the way by which their requests are approved/rejected.
2	Establish a sliding scale guidance	▶	Provides schools and families a cost that does not price any families out of access to a public school's Pre-K
3	EnrollNOLA will coordinate a yearly report on the tuition costs that are collected from both the school and a random selection of families.	▶	EnrollNOLA remains responsible for being informed of the costs advertised and assessed to families.