



Middle School Before-School Tutoring & Academic Reinforcement Pilot

Proposal Consideration | 2026-27 School Year

RECOMMENDED DECISION

Authorize a one-semester pilot operating through winter break with a minimum of 10 enrolled students. Families will schedule mornings in advance and prepay based on the number of scheduled mornings. Monthly maximums are \$50 for one student, \$70 for two siblings, and \$100 for three or more siblings. Unscheduled day-of attendance will cost \$10 per student and is subject to available capacity.

Purpose

STRIDE Academy is considering a fee-based before-school program for middle school students whose families need an earlier drop-off option. The pilot would provide a safe, highly structured setting centered on tutoring, homework completion, reading, skill practice, academic reinforcement, and preparation for the school day.

The program is not intended to function as unstructured childcare. Participation depends upon students contributing to a calm, productive academic environment and meeting high behavioral expectations.

Recommended Pilot Model

Area	Recommended Structure
Students	STRIDE Academy students in grades 5-8
Days	Monday-Friday on regular student school days
Hours	6:30-8:15 a.m.
Location	STRIDE Academy Middle School
Staffing	One STRIDE paraprofessional
Compensation	\$25 per hour
Program focus	Homework help, IXL, and independent reading
Transportation	No transportation to the program; regular transportation remains available for the regular school day
Pilot term	One semester, ending at winter break, followed by administrative review

Required Participation and Launch Thresholds

TWO REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET

Family scheduling requirement: Each student must be registered, scheduled mornings must be submitted in advance, and the applicable fees must be prepaid.

Program launch requirement: At least 10 students must complete registration before the pilot will begin.

There is no minimum number of mornings a student must attend during the month. Families pay only for mornings scheduled in advance until reaching the applicable monthly family maximum. Once that maximum is reached, additional scheduled mornings during the month are available at no additional charge.

The program is not required to break even. STRIDE will subsidize the difference between collected family fees and actual operating costs. If enrollment falls below 10 students, administration may continue, pause, modify, or discontinue the program after considering family need, cost, staffing, and operational impact.

Prepaid Family Fee Structure

Students Attending	Prepaid Morning Rate	Monthly Family Maximum
One student	\$5 per scheduled morning	\$50 total
Two siblings	\$7 total per scheduled morning	\$70 total
Three or more siblings	\$10 total per scheduled morning	\$100 total
Unscheduled day-of attendance	\$10 per student per morning	Not included in the cap

The sibling rate applies when enrolled children from the same family attend on the same morning. Families must submit their anticipated schedule and prepay before attendance. Fees are based on scheduled mornings, not actual attendance, and missed scheduled mornings are not refunded or carried forward. Schedule additions must be approved and prepaid in advance unless the family has already reached its applicable monthly maximum.

A registered student may attend on an unscheduled, day-of basis for \$10 per student per morning when space is available. Day-of admission is not guaranteed, payment is due at check-in, and these fees do not count toward the scheduled-care monthly maximum. The parent or authorized adult must remain until staff confirms that the student can be accepted.

How the Subsidy Works

Example at Monthly Maximum	Monthly Fees	Estimated Pilot Subsidy
10 students from 10 families	$10 \times \$50 = \500	\$2,500
10 students from 5 two-child families	$5 \times \$70 = \350	\$3,100
Three 3-student families and one single	$\$300 + \$50 = \$350$	\$3,100
20 students from 20 families	$20 \times \$50 = \$1,000$	\$500

Examples assume four monthly billing periods through winter break and a \$4,500 semester pilot budget. Actual subsidy will vary with schedules, family groupings, and expenses.

Pilot and 36-Week Cost Model

The estimate assumes 180 program days across 36 weeks, 1.75 paid hours per day, and one paraprofessional paid \$25 per hour. A 12 percent planning allowance is included for employer payroll and related costs. The business office should confirm the final fringe rate before launch.

Cost Item	Calculation	Estimated Cost
Direct daily wages	1.75 hours x \$25	\$43.75
Direct weekly wages	\$43.75 x 5 days	\$218.75
Direct wages for 36 weeks	\$218.75 x 36 weeks	\$7,875
Estimated payroll/fringe allowance	\$7,875 x 12%	\$945
Estimated all-in staffing cost	Direct wages + allowance	\$8,820
Estimated semester pilot budget	Approximately 18 weeks	\$4,500
Full 36-week annualized budget	Rounded planning amount	\$9,000

The one-semester pilot budget through winter break is approximately \$4,500. The \$9,000 figure is the annualized 36-week planning amount if the program is later continued. Prepaid family fees will offset costs, but STRIDE will subsidize the remaining expense.

Program Schedule

Time	Program Activity
6:30 a.m.	Doors open; parent or authorized adult physically accompanies and checks the student in
6:30-8:00 a.m.	Homework help, IXL, and independent reading
8:00-8:15 a.m.	Clean up, organize materials, and prepare for the school day
8:15 a.m.	Transition into the regular middle school morning routine

Allowed Activities

The program will maintain a quiet, academically focused environment. Student activities are limited to:

- Homework completion and homework help.
- IXL skill practice and assigned academic work.
- Independent reading.

Cellphones are not permitted during the before-school program. Phones must remain silenced and stored away from check-in until students transition into the regular school day. Students may not use phones for entertainment, communication, music, games, videos, or as a substitute for an approved academic activity.

Staffing and Supervision

The pilot would initially be staffed by one STRIDE paraprofessional. Responsibilities would include student check-in, attendance documentation, supervision, academic assistance, maintaining the learning environment, communicating concerns, and supporting an orderly transition into the regular school day.

The recommended initial capacity is 20 students. Administration may set a lower operational capacity based on student needs, available space, or supervision demands. Enrollment beyond 20 students would require an evaluation of staffing and financial sustainability before additional students are accepted.

High Behavioral Standards

All students participating in the program must follow the STRIDE Academy Code of Conduct.

- Any Level 3, Level 4, or Level 5 behavior incident will result in immediate removal from the program.
- A student may be removed from the program after accumulating up to three Level 1 or Level 2 behavior incidents.
- Families will be contacted when behavioral concerns occur.
- Because this is an optional program, removal may occur even when the behavior would not result in removal from the regular school day.
- Removal from the program does not create an obligation for STRIDE Academy to provide another early-arrival or before-school option.

Enrollment fees will not be refunded or credited when a student is removed from the program because of behavior.

Transportation

STRIDE will not provide transportation to the before-school program. A parent, guardian, or other authorized adult must physically accompany the student to the designated entrance and complete check-in with program staff. Students may not be dropped at the curb, left outside, or sent into the building without an adult completing check-in. Drop-off may not occur before 6:30 a.m. Regular STRIDE transportation will continue for students arriving for the regular school day. Participation in the pilot does not change a student's eligibility for regular school transportation.

Snacks Available for Purchase

A limited selection of individually packaged snacks and beverages will be available for students to purchase in the drop-in center. Snack purchases are optional and are not included in prepaid program fees or any monthly family maximum. Prices will be kept reasonable and communicated to families in advance.

Administration will establish procedures for payment, inventory, food allergies, nutrition expectations, and student access. Revenue from snack sales may help offset program supplies, but it will not be counted toward the minimum enrollment requirement or relied upon to fund staffing.

Family Enrollment Expectations

- Register in advance and submit the anticipated attendance schedule.
- Prepay the applicable scheduled-morning fees before attendance; no minimum number of attendance days is required.
- Request and prepay schedule additions in advance unless the applicable monthly family maximum has already been reached.

- Pay \$10 per student at check-in for any approved unscheduled, day-of attendance.
- Provide transportation and have a parent or authorized adult physically accompany and check the student in with program staff.
- Leaving a student at the curb, outside the building, or before the 6:30 a.m. opening time is an immediate program violation and may result in the student's removal from the program. Maintain current emergency contacts and promptly report anticipated absences.
- Acknowledge the program's academic purpose, behavior standards, payment terms, and removal procedures.

Pilot Evaluation

Administration should review the pilot before winter break and decide whether the program will continue, change, or end after the break. The review should consider:

- Committed monthly revenue and actual program expenses.
- Enrollment, attendance patterns, and continued family demand.
- Student academic engagement and completion of productive work.
- Behavior incidents and supervision needs.
- Family and staff feedback.
- Impact on regular middle school morning operations.
- Whether the pilot should continue, be modified, expand, or end.

Conditions for Launch

- At least 10 students complete registration.
- Each participating family submits a schedule and prepays the applicable morning fees.
- A qualified paraprofessional accepts the assignment at \$25 per hour.
- An appropriate program space and designated entrance are available.
- Families accept the payment, transportation, attendance, and behavioral expectations.
- Administrative procedures are ready for registration, billing, attendance, emergencies, snack sales, and communication.

Administrative Recommendation

Administration should authorize development of the STRIDE Middle School Before-School Tutoring & Academic Reinforcement Pilot for the 2026-27 school year, subject to the launch conditions above. The pilot offers a practical response to families who need an earlier drop-off option while preserving the benefits of the two-tier transportation schedule and limiting STRIDE's financial exposure.

PROPOSED APPROVAL

Approve a one-semester pilot operating through winter break with an estimated \$4,500 pilot budget and a \$9,000 annualized 36-week cost; prepaid rates of \$5 for one student, \$7 total for two siblings, and \$10 total for three or more siblings per scheduled morning; monthly family maximums of \$50, \$70, and \$100 respectively; unscheduled day-of attendance at \$10 per student; required adult check-in; a minimum launch enrollment of 10 students; STRIDE subsidy; and optional snacks for purchase.

Pilot Program Disclaimer

This program is being offered as a pilot through winter break. Participation in the pilot does not guarantee that the program will continue or that its future schedule, staffing, activities, capacity, procedures, pricing, discounts, or overall design will remain the same. STRIDE Academy may modify, extend, suspend, or discontinue the program based on participation, costs, staffing, student behavior, family feedback, and operational needs.

Administrative Decision

- ☐ Approved as proposed
- ☐ Approved with modifications
- ☐ Not approved
- ☐ Additional information requested

Notes: _____

Administrator: _____ Date: _____