



# Charting The Course



Angelo Castillo, Mayor  
Jay D. Schwartz, Commissioner  
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June 24, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Pembroke Pines-Florida State University Charter Elementary School is a developmental research school (laboratory school) sponsored by Florida State University. The mission of a developmental research school is to provide "a vehicle for the conduct of research, demonstration, and evaluation regarding management, teaching, and learning." As a developmental research school, the school is able to charge a student activity and service fee to be utilized for student needs throughout the school year. On June 17, 2009, the Pembroke Pines City Commission approved to institute a student activity and service fee for the students of the school. The student activity and service fee for each student for the school year **2025-2026 is \$325.00 per student for grades K-5**. Please note that field trips and some other student activities may not be included in this fee.

The fees will be used for the following:

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| Student Activities and Special Events (assemblies, competitions, etc.) | Student Award Programs (Give Me 5, Honor Roll, etc.) |
| Student Supplies   | Media  |
| Special Areas (PE, art, music, science)                                | Classroom Materials and Programs                     |
| Classroom Technology   |  |

### FEE DEADLINE

For the **2025-2026** school year, if the payment is paid in full by **Friday, October 3, 2025** a 10% discount will be given, making the total activity fee \$292.50. In addition, a payment plan has been set up for the **2025-2026** school year if parents wish to pay in four payments throughout the year. The due dates for the four payments of \$81.25 each will be: *October 3, 2025 - December 5, 2025 - February 13, 2026 - April 17, 2026*.

Any student that does not pay their fees in full will have their invitation for enrollment to the Pembroke Pines Charter School withdrawn for the next school year (this includes fifth grade students.) If families have extenuating circumstances that would prevent them from paying the fees, a hardship committee has been established to review these requests on a case-by-case basis. The due date to pay your Activity Fee is **Wednesday, June 3, 2026**.

### FREE AND REDUCED WAIVERS

Those who qualify for the Free or Reduced Price Meals Program may be eligible for a waiver for all or half of the fee. In order to be eligible for the waiver of activity fees, the application for Free and Reduced lunch must be received within 30 school days (on or before **Friday, October 3, 2025**.) of the start of each school year. If a student is admitted after the first day of school, their application must be received within 30 days of admission. If you qualify for the activity fee waiver but do not meet the 30 day application deadline, the activity fee will be due in full. You can apply for Free and Reduced Lunch on our school website [www.pinescharter.net](http://www.pinescharter.net). Once a student is approved for free or reduced lunch, an adjustment will be made to the activity fee. Those who qualify for free lunch will not need to pay the fee. Those who qualify for reduced price meals will need to pay \$162.50 per student (four payments of \$40.62 each may be paid following the payment plan dates listed above.) If the fees have already been paid, a refund will be processed. Students who participate in this program will be audited.

### EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

No student who has outstanding activity fee balances will be allowed to participate in any extra-curricular activity that is funded through the collection of these fees.

### PARTIAL YEAR FEE SCHEDULES

Activity fees will be prorated for new students who attend for less than a full school year. For each part of a quarter that the new student attends the Pembroke Pines-Florida State University Charter Elementary School, they must pay ¼ of the activity fee. There are no refunds and fees will not be prorated due to withdrawal except within 30 days of the start of each school year or within 30 days of admission.

### HOW TO PAY ACTIVITY FEES

Student activity fees may be paid either by check, money order, credit card or cashier's check ONLY made out to PPCES-FSU. **This Activity Fee can be paid on-line through [mypaymentsplus.com](http://mypaymentsplus.com) with a convenience fee of 4.29%**. Payments will be accepted in the front office. **No checks will be accepted after Friday, May 1, 2026.**

Sincerely,

Dr. Lisa Maraj  
Principal



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Dedicated to providing a high quality education to a diverse community where all students are expected to succeed as life-long learners.