

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PARENTS

October 7, 2009

Dear Mascot, Little Scholar, and Lil Pioneer Parents,

The Paradise Valley Unified School District Community Education childcare programs are licensed by the AZ Department of Health Services, or DHS. Since DHS has experienced cuts in funding resulting from the State of Arizona's recent budget cuts, that department is considering drastically raising licensure fees which every childcare site, public or private, pays to Az DHS.

Presently, Community Education pays a \$150 fee to license our programs at each school. Proposed increases by DHS could increase that fee as much as 10 to 90 times per site depending upon enrollment, which unfortunately would affect our families' rates.

Proposed DHS rates for initial application or renewal applications are:

For a capacity of 5-10 children: \$581

For a capacity of 11-59 children: \$2,218

For a capacity of 60-99 children: \$4,578

For a capacity of 100-149 children: \$7,380

For a capacity of 150 or more: \$13,442

To express our concern over any unreasonable fee increase, Community Education is joining with the Arizona Center for AfterSchool Excellence and the Arizona Community Education Association to send a letter of opposition to DHS.

That letter will be posted on the Community Education website for your review if you are interested. We understand there will be a 30 day comment period in which the public may participate and two public hearings prior to January, 2010. You may find additional information on the DHS website www.azdhs.gov after October 9, 2009.

Sincerely,

Jane Tate
Director, Community Education