

WATERTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT #14-4  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
12:00 p.m. – District Office Conference Room

1. Call meeting to order
  - 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Consent Agenda
  - 2.1. Roll Call
  - 2.2. Review/Approval of Agenda
3. Action Items - LATC
  - 3.1. Set 2025-26 Tuition and Fee Rates for Lake Area Tech
4. Adjournment



## MEMO

TO: Watertown School Board  
FROM: Tiffany Sanderson, President  
DATE: March 27, 2025  
RE: Recommended Local Fee Adjustments for Academic Year 2025-26

Each spring, the technical college system sets tuition and fee rates for the following academic year. The South Dakota Board of Technical Education sets state tuition and fees; local boards set local fees such as Campus Support Fees, Local Maintenance & Repair, and program fees. The approved rates take effect on July 1, 2025.

Thanks to the state legislature's efforts to support student affordability over the last three fiscal years, tuition and fees in the technical college system have not been adjusted since 2021-22. Since that time, required expenditures such as health and property insurance and utility costs have increased more than \$660,000 for Lake Area Technical College (LATC). That increase *does not capture* the additional costs taken on from recent inflationary costs on operations. The college is grateful for the state's support to keep costs as low as possible for students in recent years, but some adjustments are needed to maintain high quality education and prepare for the future.

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, the South Dakota Board of Technical Education set the following state-level fees for Academic Year 2025-26:

- State Tuition = \$140 per credit (up \$6)
- Tuition Assistance = -\$10 per credit (no change)
- State Facility Fee = \$36 per credit (no change)
- State Maintenance & Repair = \$8 per credit (up \$2)
- Total 2025-26 State Tuition & Fees = \$174 per credit (up \$8)

Additional detail from the Board of Technical Education is available in the attachments to this memo.



Lake Area Technical College recommends the following adjustments to Local Fees for 2025-26 to account for movements in the prices of materials used to educate LATC students in hands-on, technical classrooms and labs.

#### CAMPUS FEES

	FY21	FY22	FY23-FY25	Proposed FY26	Proposed FY26 Increase
Local Maintenance & Repair	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$0
Campus Support	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$31	\$16
Online Support	\$47	\$47	\$47	\$0	-\$47

#### SUMMER PROGRAM FEES

	FY21	FY22	FY23-FY25	Proposed FY26	Proposed FY26 Increase
Clinicals, Internships & Gen. Education	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$37	\$2
Nursing, OTA, PTA, Surg Tech, Cosmo, MFR, Diesel Specialty Options, HEO	\$71	\$71	\$82	\$84	\$2

FALL & SPRING PROGRAM FEES – See following page...



## FALL & SPRING PROGRAM FEES

	FY21	FY22	FY23 - FY25	Proposed FY26 Per Semester	FY26 Proposed Change Per Semester	FY26 Proposed Change Per Credit	FY26 Proposed TOTAL PER CREDIT
AGRICULTURE	\$ 614	\$ 629	\$ 629	\$ 629	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31
AUTO BODY & PAINT	\$ 857	\$ 887	\$ 887	\$ 887	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48
AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY	\$ 795	\$ 814	\$ 814	\$ 877	\$ 63	\$ 4	\$ 49
AVIATION MAINTENANCE	\$ 1,005	\$ 1,030	\$ 1,030	\$ 1,180	\$ 150	\$ 8	\$ 66
BUILDING TRADES TECHNOLOGY	\$ 841	\$ 861	\$ 861	\$ 877	\$ 16	\$ 1	\$ 48
BUSINESS ASSOCIATE	\$ 608	\$ 623	\$ 623	\$ 651	\$ 28	\$ 2	\$ 36
CHILD CARE TECHNOLOGY - NEW				\$ 672	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE WORKER	\$ 744	\$ 762	\$ 762	\$ 600	\$ (162)	\$ (27)	\$ 50
COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS	\$ 688	\$ 705	\$ 705	\$ 753	\$ 48	\$ 3	\$ 43
COSMETOLOGY	\$ 775	\$ 793	\$ 793	\$ 793	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54
DENTAL ASSISTING	\$ 822	\$ 842	\$ 842	\$ 877	\$ 35	\$ 2	\$ 50
DIESEL TECHNOLOGY	\$ 787	\$ 806	\$ 806	\$ 877	\$ 71	\$ 4	\$ 49
ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY	\$ 728	\$ 746	\$ 746	\$ 877	\$ 131	\$ 7	\$ 49
ENERGY OPERATIONS	\$ 670	\$ 686	\$ 686	\$ 753	\$ 67	\$ 4	\$ 41
ENERGY TECHNOLOGY		\$ 686	\$ 686	\$ 753	\$ 67	\$ 4	\$ 41
FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$ 636	\$ 651	\$ 651	\$ 651	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35
HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR	\$ 1,326	\$ 1,357	\$ 1,357	\$ 1,557	\$ 200	\$ 11	\$ 86
LAW ENFORCEMENT	\$ 1,040	\$ 1,065	\$ 1,065	\$ 1,030	\$ (35)	\$ (2)	\$ 55
MED FIRE RESCUE	\$ 719	\$ 736	\$ 736	\$ 943	\$ 207	\$ 10	\$ 48
MEDICAL ASSISTING	\$ 745	\$ 763	\$ 763	\$ 763	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37
MEDICAL LAB TECHNICIAN	\$ 921	\$ 943	\$ 943	\$ 943	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	\$ 664	\$ 680	\$ 680	\$ 629	\$ (51)	\$ (3)	\$ 35
NURSING-LPN	\$ 1,139	\$ 1,167	\$ 1,402	\$ 1,602	\$ 200	\$ 9	\$ 70
NURSING - RN	\$ 1,496	\$ 1,532	\$ 1,532	\$ 1,732	\$ 200	\$ 9	\$ 76
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT	\$ 689	\$ 706	\$ 706	\$ 753	\$ 47	\$ 2	\$ 39
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT	\$ 761	\$ 753	\$ 753	\$ 753	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39
PRECISION MACHINING	\$ 1,076	\$ 1,102	\$ 1,102	\$ 1,180	\$ 78	\$ 4	\$ 66
PROFESSIONAL FIXED WING PILOT	\$ 495	\$ 507	\$ 507	\$ 1,230	\$ 723	\$ 43	\$ 73
ROBOTICS		\$ 746	\$ 746	\$ 877	\$ 131	\$ 7	\$ 49
SOCIAL WORK - NEW				\$ 672	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40
SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY			\$ 763	\$ 823	\$ 60	\$ 3	\$ 48
UNCREWED AERIAL SYSTEMS - NEW				\$ 450	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50
WELDING TECHNOLOGY	\$ 738	\$ 756	\$ 756	\$ 823	\$ 67	\$ 4	\$ 46

### \*UNIFORM & COURSE FEES

Students will be charged for the costs of uniforms and specific course materials necessary to complete degree programs at Lake Area Technical College.

LAKEAREATECH.EDU



Superior, comprehensive technical education that changes lives and launches careers.



## **TUITION & FEES SETTING PROPOSAL 2025-2026 (FY26)**

South Dakota Board of Technical Education

Thursday, March 27, 2025

The technical college system affirmed a set of three strategic priorities, including attainment, affordability, and alignment. The setting of state-level tuition and fees should align with our system's priorities and support the goal of providing access to high-quality, affordable technical education to the state of South Dakota.

Each spring, the South Dakota Board of Technical Education sets the state tuition and fee rates for the following academic year. The approved rates will become effective on July 1, 2025. The state tuition and fees paid by students are combined with revenues generated through local and/or program-specific fees and state appropriations to maintain the overall cost of delivering technical education.

### **CONSIDERATIONS 2025-2026 (FY26) Forecast**

The following considerations are based on revenue and expenditure projections for fiscal year 2026 (FY26), including state appropriations set in the FY26 budget during the 2025 legislative session.

#### **Revenue Impacts**

- The Per Student Allocation (PSA) received a 1.25% inflationary rate increase in FY26, bringing to PSA amount per full-time equivalent (FTE) up to \$6,324.04 (an increase of \$78.07/FTE from \$6,245.97 in FY25). The rate increase will generate an additional \$449,575 in FY26.
- Based on fall 2024 and spring 2025 enrollment reports, the system anticipates a moderate increase in credits collected and FTE in academic year 2024-2025 (FY26).
- The system will receive \$1,619,310 in Maintenance and Repair (M&R) funding in FY26, a decrease of \$182,500 from FY25. The FY26 appropriation includes \$977,854 in ongoing funding and \$641,456 in one-time funding.
- The system will receive \$4,000,000 in one-time equipment funding in FY26, to be distributed using the existing funding formula.
- The system will receive \$1,831,820 in tuition assistance, to be distributed based on generated credit hours.

#### **Expenditure Impacts**

- Recent and projected inflationary increases impacting a variety of expenses (i.e. insurance premiums, utilities, maintenance, supplies, technology, service contracts, etc.).
- Increased salary expenses totaling approximately \$635,000 to achieve an average 1.25% increase.
- The system has identified more than \$4,500,000 in high priority M&R projects to be completed in FY26.
- The system will receive a decrease of \$182,550 in M&R funding in FY26 (compared to FY25).
- The system committed to matching the state's contribution to equipment funding with \$1,970,149 in local support, which represents 33% of total equipment need in FY26.

### **PROPOSED STATE TUITION AND FEES RATES 2025-2026 (FY26)**

Tuition and fees in the technical college system have not been adjusted since academic year 2021-2022 (FY22). The proposed state tuition rate, facility fee, and M&R fee for academic year 2025-2026 (FY26) reflect the system's need to maintain high quality, prepare for growth, and balance affordability for students.

Table one on page two provides additional details on the proposed rates. Table two provides the FY21-FY26 history of rates.

**Table 1** Proposed 2025-2026 (FY26) State Tuition and Fees

Description	Rate to Students	Details
State Tuition	\$130/credit	The proposed rate assessed to students would be \$130/credit. The demonstrated need is \$140/credit, with \$10/credit defrayed through the tuition assistance state appropriation. State tuition supports a wide variety of expenses (i.e. personnel, supplies, equipment, technology, utilities, etc.).
Facility Fee	\$36/credit	Revenue generated through the facility fee maintains the system's annual debt service payment related to debt incurred to construct facilities. The system pays 73% of the annual debt service total and the state contributes the remaining 27%. The system must generate enough revenue annually to maintain a 1.03 debt ratio.
M&R Fee*	\$8/credit	Revenue generated through the M&R fee, combined with the annual state appropriation, provides funding to maintain existing facilities and land throughout the system. Typical projects might include parking lots, drainage, roofs, flooring, paint and wall coverings, and HVAC. The system is expected to make an annual minimum M&R investment equal to 1.25% of the total replacement value of all state-owned facilities.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$174/credit</b>	*The M&R fee is collected locally.

**Table 2** Tuition and State Fees History (FY21-FY25) and Current Proposal (FY26)

	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
<b>State Tuition</b>	\$131	\$134	\$134	\$134	\$134	\$140
<b>Tuition Assistance</b>	(\$10)	(\$10)	(\$10)	(\$10)	(\$10)	(\$10)
<b>Facility Fee</b>	\$36	\$36	\$36	\$36	\$36	\$36
<b>M&amp;R Fee</b>	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$8
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$163</b>	<b>\$166</b>	<b>\$166</b>	<b>\$166</b>	<b>\$166</b>	<b>\$174</b>

**SUMMARY**

The proposal includes a 4.8% increase to state tuition and fees between FY25 and FY26. If the proposed increase were approved, state tuition and fees will have increased by 6.7% between FY21 and FY26.

**NON STATE-SUBSIDIZED DUAL-CREDIT RATE**

The board should affirm a system-level non state-subsidized dual-credit rate. This rate would be assessed to dual-credits not subsidized through support from the state of South Dakota and should align with the expectations defined in SDCL 13-28-37.1. For academic year 2024-2025, the proposed non state-subsidized dual-credit rate is set at the same per credit rate as the state-subsidized dual-credit rate.