Extended-day programs

Some schools make a profit to fund other expenses.

by WRESTLER KING

The first five East Baton Rouge Parish elementary schools launched extended-day programs last fall. The programs were intended to be unique and scalable, but the reality is that the schools have found themselves in a financial tightrope.

The schools — Wadsworth, Parkview, Glenbrook and the Baton Rouge Center for Visual and Performing Arts — have been offering these extended-day programs since the 1997-98 school year.

Daphne Henderson, principal of Parkview Elementary, explained that the programs were designed to provide parents with more options for their children.

"Parents need the programs," she said.

But there are no guarantees for the schools. They need the extended-day programs to make up for the lack of Title I money.

Title I funds federal dollars into schools with large numbers of poor students.

"Children deserve this," she said.

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If the schools aren't careful, they can't afford the full cost, nor do many parents want to pay for the full cost.

Berestutis said the students receiving free lunch pay only $30 per week, and students who get reduced-price lunches pay $60 per week.

Parkview Elementary also has a "work for the week" program, which allows students to receive reduced prices per week. The school also has a "work for the week" program.

At some Title I schools, the cost of the extended-day program is $60, while at others, it's $15 per week.

One of the other schools with self-provided programs offers students a $10 per week.