



J-Ticket Program FAQ

For the 2026-2027 School Year & Summer 2027

What is the J-Ticket?

The J-Ticket program is designed to facilitate and grow an Akron Jewish family's engagement in the community. The J-Ticket significantly reduces tuition for the Mandel Early Childhood Education (ECE) program at the Shaw JCC or The Lippman School, and provides 2 weeks at the Mandel ECE Summer Playhouse or Shaw JCC traditional day camp, depending on which Ticket is purchased. It also includes membership at a participating synagogue and a family membership at the Shaw JCC.

The program is made possible by a generous grant from the Albert L. and Janet A. Schultz Endowment for Jewish Programming and is administered by JewishAkron.

How does the J-Ticket work?

A Jewish family submits an application and arranges payment for the desired J-Ticket. JewishAkron then compensates the campus agencies and Akron synagogues for the remaining cost of the services included in the J-Ticket.

Unless you are applying for the Akron J-Ticket, **admission to the Mandel ECE or The Lippman School is a pre-requisite to acceptance in the J-Ticket program.** Please confirm enrollment **before** applying for the J-Ticket.

For the 2026-27 school year, all eligible applicants will be accepted (provided they identify as a Jewish household, and for the Akron J-Ticket, one adult must be 40 years of age or younger.)

How can I buy a J-Ticket?

Completed applications should be submitted to the e-mail address listed on the application in the program description. The J-Ticket is open to all Jewish families, regardless of financial need.

J-Tickets can be purchased by the participants themselves or by other family members on behalf of the J-Ticket applicant family. If payment is made by someone other than the J-Ticket family, it is understood that the benefits of the J-Ticket belong to the applicant family only and do not extend to the payor.

Payments should be arranged through the agency providing the J-Ticket: The Lippman School, the Mandel ECE, or JewishAkron. For the Lippman School J-Ticket, please note: There are student fees in addition to tuition; these fees are not paid by J-Ticket and are the responsibility of the parents.

Can I purchase more than one J-Ticket?

Families may purchase one J-Ticket for The Lippman School and one J-Ticket for the Mandel ECE for a total of two J-Tickets. No family may have two J-Tickets in the same program.

A separate application is required for each J-Ticket.

The cost will be one full J-Ticket plus the J-Ticket tuition cost for the second J-Ticket.

Payment plans for tuition with Mandel ECE and The Lippman School will be set up according to the respective program's software system.

Two vouchers for Summer Playhouse will be issued on behalf of the Mandel ECE student, and two vouchers for Traditional Camp will be issued on behalf of The Lippman School student.

Application Submission

The application for the following school year is available on the JewishAkron (JCBA) website in the spring of each year. The application for 2026-27 will be available as of 4/22/2026.

If you are currently a J-Ticket family or are a new student on the Schultz Campus, you may also receive an application via e-mail.

Please submit the application electronically to the e-mail address indicated on the application for the ticket you want to purchase.

Applications should be submitted prior to the beginning of the school year (early September), but later applications will be accepted for the Lippman School and ECE J-Tickets.

The deadline for the Akron J-Ticket is September 15, 2026.

The cost of Lippman School and ECE J-Tickets is 100% of the J-Ticket price for applications submitted April 1, 2026 through October 31, 2026, and 80% of full cost for applications submitted in November and December 2026.

No J-Ticket applications for the 2026-27 school year will be accepted after December 31, 2026.

Changes for 2026-27

There is a modest price increase for all J-Tickets, which reflects increases in tuition and JCC membership.

Shaw JCC Membership

A family membership for the Shaw JCC is included in your J-Ticket. A family includes two adults and all children under the age of 24 who live in the household at least part of the 2026-27 school year. The membership runs from September 1, 2026 through August 2027.

If you are new to the J-Ticket program, please visit the Shaw JCC to fill out the membership forms, and have every family member stop by the front desk to obtain a membership ID. This ID is required for checking in at the front desk, fitness desk, or outdoor pool every time each member enters the facility.

If you are already a paying member of the Shaw JCC, your membership from September 2026 through August 2027 will be paid for by the J-Ticket instead of by a draw from your registered payment method at the JCC.

Synagogue Membership

Membership dues will be paid on your behalf to the synagogue indicated on your J-Ticket application (Anshe Sfard, Beth El Congregation, or Temple Israel Akron). If you are not familiar with the Akron synagogues, please visit their websites to see which one best suits your family. The synagogues will receive a list of the J-Ticket families who have selected them.

Please note there may be additional fees beyond membership dues, such as a small security fee, billed to you by the synagogue, which are not paid by J-Ticket. The synagogues want to be accessible and affordable for your family, so please contact them if you ever receive a billing statement that could be a hardship for you.

If you are a new member, the synagogue should reach out to you to help you get involved in their congregation, but you may also reach out to them. Contact information, as well as information about services, programs, events, and classes, is available on the synagogue websites. The amount paid to the synagogue for your membership is by agreement between JewishAkron and the Akron-area synagogues, regardless of the published cost or the amount you may have paid in the past.

Camp Vouchers

If you have purchased a Lippman School J-Ticket, you will receive two vouchers, each one good for a week of Traditional Camp at the Shaw JCC for summer 2027.

Please note that “Traditional Camp” does not include specialty camps or other summer programs offered by the Shaw JCC or The Lippman School.

If you have purchased a Mandel ECE J-Ticket, you will receive two vouchers, each one good for one week of Summer Playhouse for summer 2027.

Vouchers are not transferable. They are valid only for the family to whom they are issued.

Camp Vouchers are electronic. The Camp Director for Shaw JCC maintains a list of all eligible families and the voucher numbers associated with their J-Tickets. ECE staff maintains the list for Summer Playhouse participants. Vouchers should be redeemed at the time of camp enrollment.

It is the responsibility of the parent to ask to redeem their child’s vouchers at the time of registration for camp.

JewishAkron Annual Campaign Contribution

Supporting JewishAkron with a contribution to the Annual Campaign helps us sustain the thriving community in which the J-Ticket operates, support the administration of the J-Ticket program, and provide funding for many other programs and services in the Jewish community. We encourage J-Ticket families to support the Campaign at whatever level is appropriate for your circumstances and makes sense for your family.

The JewishAkron Annual Campaign typically kicks off in early October. If you would like to make your donation online, visit www.jewishakron.org/give where you can make payment via credit/debit card.

Still Have Questions?

Please feel free to contact:

Tracy Finn 330-835-0074 or tfinn@thelippmanschool.org for the Lippman School J-Ticket

Kim Garra 330-835-0044 or kgarra@jewishakron.org for the Mandel ECE J-Ticket

Sheri Galat 330-835-0003 or sgalat@jewishakron.org for the Akron J-Ticket

Please direct any general questions about the program to Sheri Galat.