



Regulation: ~~Activity and Course Cost Fees – Secondary Students Fees for Learning Materials and Activities at Schools~~

Reference No: R-BA-29

A school may only ~~change-charge~~ reasonable fees for enhanced or optional programming which are in compliance with the Education Act as set out below. In situations where fees may be charged to students, no student shall be excluded from participating in any school activity or event based on their ability to pay every effort shall be made to assist students with limited financial means.

A fee is permissible for an activity, material, course or program for which any of the following applies:

- Not required as part of the regular day school program
- Voluntary, and alternatives are offered;
- Non essential or extracurricular in nature and is not required for graduation by an individual student; and
- A voluntary upgrade or substitute to a more costly material instead of material provided for course purposes.

Student Activity Fees:

Student activity fees are voluntary amounts that are used to supplement a student's school experience through materials and activities such as student agendas, student recognition programs, yearbooks, extracurricular activities, school dances or theme days. Schools are not permitted to charge a flat rate student activity fee but may request payment of activity fees, on a cost recovery basis, for individual materials and activities. An itemized list of fees, purpose of the fee and rationale should be shared with the school community.

All student activity fees must be consistent with the Board's mission, vision and strategic priorities. Student activity fees must be complementary to public funding for education.

Schools should have a flexible and informal process, led by the Principal, that respects the dignity of students and families who require accommodation due to financial hardship.

For guidance related to field trips, refer to Policy / Regulation PR 01 "Field Trips and Excursions".

Enhanced Programming and Materials:

Enhanced programming and materials are voluntary enrichments or upgrades to the curriculum or co-curricular activities beyond what is necessary to meet the learning expectations for a particular grade or course. Where students choose not to access these enhanced programs or materials, alternatives must be available; as essential course materials required to meet the learning expectations of the course or grade are to be provided at no cost.

Prohibitions for fee charges:

- Textbook fee or deposit;

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Course Costs Fees:

- ~~6. Fees may be charged where the student chooses to upgrade the material or where purchasing the material is optional.~~
- ~~7. Fees charged shall reflect the actual costs to the school and a budget may include a reasonable amount charged per pupil for protection against loss of uncollected amounts.~~
- ~~8. Fees shall not be charged for the purpose of creating "discretionary accounts". All money collected is to be for specific goods or services, other than capital equipment.~~
- ~~9. Any additional charge for supplies, materials or equipment associated with any courses, will be advertised in writing for students to see prior~~



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~~confidentially address financial hardship. Fee schedules can be included in fall school newsletters, posted on school websites and/or referenced in student agendas.~~
~~15. It is expected that balance from fees collected are not carried forward from year to year but rather used during the school year for the intended purpose.~~



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