

STUDENT FEES

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to provide for free instruction in school. In accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, it is the board's intention to provide free instruction for courses required by law or regulation and to provide the staff, facilities, equipment and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to students. The Public Elementary and Secondary Education Act does allow school district's to expect students and their parents to provide for basic clothing and personal items to be successful in the classroom including but not limited to clothing, shoes, pencils, pens, paper, notebooks, calculators and the like.

The school district also offers activities, programs and services to children beyond the minimum level of required free instruction. It is the board's intention to ask students and their parents to contribute, to the extent permitted by law, to the cost of such activities, programs and services.

The Board of Education directs the superintendent or his/her designee to develop and communicate regulations and procedures to determine appropriate contributions and waivers for such as required by law. The board further directs the superintendent or his/her designee to schedule an annual public hearing at a special or regular board meeting to receive public input on the student fee policy.

Adopted: April 19, 2004

STUDENT FEES

The District's general policy is to provide for the free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution. This generally means that the District's policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff, facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students.

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children which extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents have historically contributed to the District's efforts to provide such activities, programs and services. Such student and parent contributions have included: students coming to school with the basic clothing and personal supplies to be successful in the classroom (clothing, shoes, pencils, pens, paper, notebooks, calculators, and the like), students bringing their own or paying the reasonable cost of specialized equipment or supplies for the personal preference or personal retained benefit of students (for example, band equipment, locker deposit or rental fees, shop class materials where the student keeps the product, and college tuition or fees for college credit for advanced placement courses or correspondence courses), students providing their own specialized clothing and equipment to be prepared for the extracurricular activities in which they choose to participate (sporting apparel, including shoes, undergarments, and the like), and assisting with special programs, such as field trips, summer school, school dances and plays. The District's general policy is to continue to encourage and to require, to the extent permitted by law, such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth its guidelines for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines. These guidelines are subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations which may be adopted from time to time. Parents, guardians and students are encouraged to contact their building administration for further specifics.

1. Guidelines for clothing required for specified courses and activities:
Students have the responsibility to furnish and wear non-specialized attire meeting general District grooming and attire guidelines, as well as grooming and attire guidelines established for the building or programs attended by the students or in which the students participate. Students also have the responsibility to furnish and wear non-specialized attire reasonably related to the programs, courses and activities in which the students participate where the required attire is specified in writing by the administrator or teacher responsible for the program, course or activity.

The District will provide or make available to students such safety equipment and attire as may be required by law, specifically including appropriate industrial-quality eye protective devices for courses of instruction in vocational, technical, industrial arts, chemical or chemical-physical classes which involve exposure to hot molten

metals or other molten materials, milling, sawing, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding or stamping of any solid materials, heat treatment, tempering, or kiln firing of any metal or other materials, gas or electric arc welding or other forms of welding processes, repair or servicing of any vehicle, or caustic or explosive materials, or for laboratory classes involving caustic or explosive materials, hot liquids or solids, injurious radiations, or other similar hazards. Building administrators are directed to assure that such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, teachers are directed to instruct students in the usage of such devices and to assure that students use the devices as required, and students have the responsibility to follow such instructions and use the devices as instructed.

2. Personal or consumable items:

Students have the responsibility to furnish any personal or consumable items for participation in the courses and activities provided by the District. This includes the responsibility to furnish minor personal or consumable items including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers and notebooks. Equipment or supplies of a specialized nature for certain courses (for example, protractors and math calculators) may be available to students by the District, but students may also be encouraged to purchase their own such equipment or supplies for their own use after school hours or for use during the school day due to the limited number of District items available to the students. A specific class supply list will be published annually in a Board-approved student handbook or supplement or other notice. The list may include refundable damage or loss deposits required for usage of certain District property.

While the District will provide students with the use of facilities, equipment, materials and supplies, including books, the students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of such property. Students and their parents or guardian will be held responsible for damages to school property caused or aided by the student and will also be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of school property which is placed in the care of and lost by the student.

3. Materials required for course projects:

Students have the responsibility to furnish or pay the reasonable cost of any materials required for course projects where, upon completion, the project becomes the property of the student. Such materials are subject to the District's fee waiver policy (Section 12).

Students must furnish musical instruments for participation in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Use of a musical instrument without charge is available under the District's fee waiver policy (Section 12); however, the District is not required to provide for the use of a particular type of musical instrument for any student.

4. Extracurricular Activities-Specialized Equipment or Attire:

Extracurricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the District, which do not count toward graduation or

advancement between grades, and in which participation is not otherwise required by the District.

The District will generally furnish students with specialized equipment and attire for participation in extracurricular activities. The District is not required to provide for the use of any particular type of equipment or attire. Equipment or attire fitted for the student and which the student generally wears exclusively, such as dance squad, cheerleading, and music/dance activity (e.g. choir or show choir) uniforms and outfits, along with T-shirts for teams or band members, will be required to be provided by the participating student. The cost of maintaining any equipment or attire, including uniforms, which the student purchases or uses exclusively, shall be the responsibility of the participating student. Equipment which is ordinarily exclusively used by an individual student participant throughout the year, such as golf clubs, softball gloves, and the like, are required to be provided by the student participant. Items for the personal medical use or enhancement of the student (braces, mouth pieces, and the like) are the responsibility of the student participant.

Students have the responsibility to furnish personal or consumable equipment or attire for participation in extra curricular activities or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire.

For music courses that are extracurricular activities, student may be required to provide specialized equipment, such as musical instruments, or specialized attire, or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire.

5. Extracurricular Activities-Fees for Participation:

The District does not generally charge fees for participation in extracurricular activities. Admission fees are charged for extracurricular activities and events.

6. Postsecondary Education Costs

Students are responsible for postsecondary education costs. The phrase “postsecondary education costs” means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a postsecondary educational institution. For a course in which students receive both high school and postsecondary education credit or a course being taken as part of an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program, the course shall be offered without charge for tuition, transportation, books or other fees, except tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credits from a postsecondary educational institution.

7. Transportation Costs:

Students are responsible for fees established for transportation services provided by the District as and to the extent permitted by federal and state laws and regulations.

8. Copies of Student Files or Records:

The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of fees representing a reasonable cost of reproduction for copies of a student's files or records for the parents or guardians of such student. A parent, guardian or students who requests copies of files or records shall be responsible for the cost of copies reproduced in accordance with such fee schedule. The imposition of a fee shall not be used to prevent parents of students from exercising their right to inspect and review the students' files or records and no fee shall be charged to search for or retrieve any student's files or records. The fee schedule shall permit one copy of the requested records be provided for or on behalf of the student without charge and shall allow duplicate copies to be provided without charge to the extent required by federal or state laws or regulations.

9. Participation in before-and-after-school or pre-kindergarten services:

Students are responsible for fees required for participation in before-and-after school or pre-kindergarten services offered by the District, except to the extent such services are required to be provided without cost.

10. Participation in Summer School or Night School:

Students are responsible for fees required for participation in summer school or night school. Students are also responsible for expenses related to correspondence courses.

11. Breakfast and Lunch Programs:

Students shall be responsible for items which students purchase from the District's breakfast and lunch programs. The cost of items to be sold to students shall be consistent with applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

Students are also responsible for the cost of food, beverages, and personal or consumable items which the students purchase from the District or at a school, whether from a "school store," a vending machine, a booster club or parent group sale, a book order club, or the like.

Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

12. Waiver Policy:

The District's policy is to provide fee waivers in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for:

- ✦ participation in extracurricular activities.
- ✦ admission fees and transportation charges for student spectators attending extracurricular activities.
- ✦ materials for course projects, and

- ✦ use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Participation in a free-lunch program or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for free or reduced-price lunches for purposes of this section. Students or their parents must request a waiver prior to participating in or attending the activity, and prior to purchase of the materials. Materials for course projects to be provided to free or reduced-price lunch eligible students shall be required to be approved by the administration, which shall apply a standard based on providing materials which are equitable to those purchased by comparable students.

13. Distribution of Policy:

The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall publish the District's student fee policy in the Student Handbook or the equivalent (for example, publication may be made in an addendum or a supplement to the student handbook). The Student Handbook or the equivalent shall be provided to students of the District at no cost.

14. Student Fee Fund:

The School Board hereby establishes a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate school district fund not funded by tax revenue, into which all money collected from students and subject to the Student Fee Fund shall be deposited and from which money shall be expended for the purposes for which it was collected from students. Funds subject to the Student Fee fund consist of money collected from students for:

- ✦ participation in extracurricular activities.
- ✦ postsecondary education costs.
- ✦ summer school or night school.