

Student Fees, Fines and Charges

Students shall not be charged an instructional fee as a condition of enrollment in school or as a condition of attendance in any class that is considered part of the academic portion of the district's educational program except tuition when allowed by law. However, the district may require students to pay textbook fees, fees for expendable materials and other miscellaneous fees as more fully set forth in this policy.

All student fees and charges shall be adopted by the Board. The fee shall remain in place until modified or removed by Board resolution. All student fees adopted by the Board shall be used for the purposes set forth in the motion and shall not be spent for any other purpose.

When publicizing any information concerning any fee authorized to be collected by this policy, the school shall specify whether the fee is voluntary or mandatory and the specific activity from which the student will be excluded if the fee is not paid.

Among the fees which the Board may authorize are the following:

Textbooks, library resources and other school property

Textbooks shall be provided on a loan basis.

It is expected that students shall return textbooks and library resources to the school in good condition except for ordinary wear. Students shall be assessed fines for lost, damaged or defaced books (including those checked out from the library), materials or equipment. The fines will be for the amount of the loss. In computing a fine, 20 percent of the original cost of a book or library resource will be deducted for each year it has been used. Alternative payment methods, such as installment plans or school service, will be considered for students who are unable to pay the full fee when assessed. A student shall not be refused use of textbooks based on failure to pay the required fees.

State law prohibits districts from withholding student records for enrollment in another grade or institution of higher education and from withholding a student's diploma, transcript or grades when a student fails to pay an assessed fine or fee or fails to return or replace textbooks, library resources, or other school property at the completion of any semester or school year. C.R.S. 22-32-110 (1)(jjj).

Fees for expendable supplies and materials

Teachers shall determine a basic course for each class which can be completed with materials furnished by the school. However, students may be charged a fee for expendable supplies and materials used in the course. Fees for expendable supplies and materials shall relate directly to the actual cost of providing these materials to the student. Students shall be required to pay for materials that go into shop, crafts or art projects that are above the basic requirements for the course and are to be retained by the student.

Miscellaneous fees

Students may be asked to pay miscellaneous fees and expenses on a voluntary basis as a condition of attending, participating in, or obtaining materials/clothing/equipment used in a school-sponsored activity or program not within the academic portion of the educational program.

Rental fees for the use of items such as choral robes, band uniforms and school-owned instruments shall be approved by the Board upon the recommendation of the superintendent.

Students participating in activities which are not required by the teacher or used in the determination of a grade may be required to pay charges covering the cost of the activity. Such charges may include but are not limited to admission fees, food costs and transportation costs on activity trips. However, it is incumbent upon the teacher and principal to make every effort to be sure no student is denied the right to participate in trips or other enrichment activities because of lack of funds.

The district may impose and collect a fee for the payment of excess transportation costs in accordance with state law. Only those students who use the district's transportation services shall be required to pay any transportation fee.

Waiver of fees

All fees, fines and charges for textbooks and expendable supplies and materials required for classes within the academic portion of the educational program and any transportation fee shall be waived for indigent students. For purposes of determining if a student is able to pay, an indigent student is defined as any child who is eligible for a free or reduced price lunch under the federal poverty income guidelines.

All fees for textbooks, expendable supplies and materials, and miscellaneous fees shall be waived for students in out-of-home placements, as that term is defined by C.R.S. 22-32-138 (1)(h).

Fee schedule

The district shall prepare and make available upon request a complete list of student fees, describing how the amount of each fee was derived and the purpose of each fee.

Parents shall be informed on the fee schedule or otherwise regarding how to apply for a waiver of fees, whether fees are voluntary or mandatory and the specific activity from which the student will be excluded if the fee is not paid. Students qualifying for a fee waiver will receive it without unnecessary embarrassment or public exposure of their need.

Adopted: September 25, 1990

Revised: March 1994

Revised: July 29, 1998

Revised: February 23, 2000

Revised: October 26, 2011

Revised: April 4, 2018

Revised: September 25, 2019

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(u) *(free textbooks to indigent students w/o loss/damage deposit)*
C.R.S. 22-32-110 (1)(o) *(textbooks for free or reasonable rental fee)*
C.R.S. 22-32-110 (1)(jj) *(board power to assess fines or fees for the return or replacement of textbooks, library resources or other school property)*
C.R.S. 22-32-113 (5) *(transportation of pupils and imposition of fee for excess transportation costs)*
C.R.S. 22-32-117 *(fees)*
C.R.S. 22-32-118 *(summer school fees)*
C.R.S. 22-32-138 (7) *(waiver of fees for students in out-of-home placements)*
C.R.S. 22-45-104 *(disposition of moneys collected from fines and fees)*

CROSS REFS.: EEA, Student Transportation
EFC, Free and Reduced Price Food Services
JFABE, Students in Foster Care

Fountain-Fort Carson School District #8, Fountain, Colorado