



## Legal Alert

### STUDENTS MAY *NOT* BE CHARGED FEES TO PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES OR PROGRAMS

Students may *not* be charged fees to participate in most school activities, including:

- Class or extracurricular activity;
- Security deposits for equipment, uniforms, books, or materials;
- School supplies, material, or equipment.

Fees may be charged in a few situations, including;

- Lost or damaged books or equipment;
- Optional school dances or athletic events;
- Food sold at school (subject to free and reduced-price meal program restrictions).

See Education Code 49010-49013 and Administrative Regulation 3260 for a full list of fees that can be charged and collected.

#### Voluntary fundraising still permissible

Schools and parent associations may continue to solicit voluntary donations to support school programs and activities. **BUT**, any donation or participation in a fundraiser must be truly *voluntary*.

OK TO CHARGE STUDENT FEES	NO FEES CAN BE CHARGED TO STUDENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Voluntary fundraising or donations</li> <li>➤ Fees for lost/damaged books or equipment</li> <li>➤ Fees for optional dances or athletic events</li> <li>➤ Fees for food sold at school</li> <li>➤ Fees for eye safety devices</li> <li>➤ Uniforms that are general wear, such as blue shorts and a white shirt, that can be worn outside of school, and do not have specialized designs or emblems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Extracurricular activities</li> <li>➤ Security deposits for supplies or equipment such as a lock or musical instrument</li> <li>➤ Required purchases of supplies such as art materials</li> <li>➤ Uniforms that are not general wear, because they have specialized designs or emblems (such as school logo or mascot)</li> <li>➤ Requiring participation in fundraising</li> <li>➤ Fees for <b>most</b> field trips*</li> </ul>

#### Complaints regarding fees

Complaints about fees may be submitted as a Uniform Complaint (call the Ombudsperson at (510) 879-4281 for more info). Schools may be required to provide **full reimbursement** for unauthorized fees.

\*\*There is a limited exception for optional, out-of-state field trips where no student is excluded for lack of funds, and it does not take place on schooldays.

If you have specific questions, call the Legal Office at 510-879-8535.

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