

ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: August 27, 2012

AGENDA ITEM No. 12-08-(2)-09

ACTION ITEM (Y/N) Y

SUBJECT: Senior Citizen Admittance Fee Waiver Policy # 5007 - 1st Reading Approval

INFO. CONTACT: Michael Gilbert, Public Information Officer PHONE: 919-732-8126

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Senior Citizen Admittance Fee Waiver Policy # 5007
2. Sample Senior Citizen Eligibility by Age

PURPOSE: To provide the Board of Education a proposed policy to waive admittance fees for senior citizens (age 60 or older) who attend school events.

BACKGROUND: Some school districts across the state offer senior citizens discounted or free admission to district events and programs.

In an effort to recognize the contributions of our community's senior citizens and encourage them to attend school system events, the district is proposing that certain entrance fees for Orange County Schools' events be waived. This would apply to any individual aged 60 and above. Senior citizens will be asked to provide identification specifying their age.

This policy will apply to athletic events, cultural arts performances and other school system events. It will not apply to events where an outside entity, such as the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, requires that attendees pay an admission fee (for example, a high school football playoff game). Appropriate notification signage informing the public of this benefit will be developed and put into place by staff.

This policy has been reviewed by legal counsel.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: There will be a slight decline in gate revenues for school events. The exact financial impact cannot be determined at this time.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education approve the Senior Citizen Admittance Fee Waiver Policy # 5007 for 1st Reading Approval.

**Senior Citizen Admittance Fee
Waiver Policy**

Date Reviewed/Approved:

Policy Number: 5007

Rescinds Policy Number:

Issued:

The Orange County Board of Education encourages senior citizens to attend school system events and programs. Senior citizens (age 60 or older) will be admitted free of charge to school system events on school property. This policy applies to athletic events, cultural arts performances, and other school system events. The policy does not apply to events where an outside entity such as the North Carolina High School Athletic Association requires that attendees pay an admission fee (for example, a high school football playoff game). School system administrators shall take reasonable steps to notify senior citizens of this free-admission policy, to include the posting of this information on signs at school sites. To gain free admission at a school event, a senior citizen should provide identification specifying the individual's age.

Sample Senior Citizen Eligibility by Age*

There is no set age when a person becomes a "senior citizen." The age requirements for federal and state programs and entitlements are established by legislative action.

You are eligible...

at 60 for:

- Social Security benefits to surviving spouse
- Railroad Retirement Benefits
- Local programs funded under the Older Americans Act-
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

at 62 for:

- Reduced Fare Program (transportation)
- Senior citizen federally subsidized housing and congregate housing
- 80% Social Security/Railroad Retirement benefits for retirees

65 for:

- Full Social Security benefits (if income is less than \$14,500)
- Medicare/Medicaid coverage
- Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged And Disabled (PAAD)
- Lifelong Credit Program
- Hunting and Fishing Licenses at a reduced fee
- Tuition-free or reduced fee courses at NJ public institutions of higher learning and some private institutions
- Senior citizen property tax deduction if eligible

at 70 for:

- Full Social Security benefits regardless of the amount of earned income

*Adapted from the Borough of Mountainside's website <http://www.mountainside-nj.com/>