

5045

Student Fees, Fines and Charges

PART ONE:

The District's general policy is to provide for instruction in accordance with the Nebraska State Constitution. The district offers some activities, programs, and services that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction and as such may require additional expenditures which are properly borne by students as a separate charge. Such charges shall be kept to a minimum to maintain the activity, program or service. Students qualifying under part 3 of this policy may receive a fee waiver. No fees, materials, specialized or non-specialized attire, or equipment shall be required of students except as expressly permitted below.

A. Extracurricular activities and spectator events:

A fee will be charged for participation in extracurricular activities and to spectators of extracurricular activities. Each school building shall annually submit its extracurricular fee list to the District for approval and publication in that school's handbook.

1. Fees may be charged for participation in extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities are those activities or organizations where student participation is voluntary and does not count toward graduation or advancement between grades.

2. Schools may require students to furnish specialized equipment and attire, or pay a reasonable fee for use of district owned equipment and attire, for participation in extracurricular activities including such activities as extracurricular music.

3. Clubs, teams and organizations for which there may be a fee required for participation may also, as a club, team or organization, decide to make purchases, and may raise funds and/or seek donations according to District policy to assist in the funding of such purchases, which may include, but are not limited to, apparel and trips. The decision of an organization to require members to participate in fundraising or otherwise fund purchases is not a fee charged by the District.

4. Fees may be charged for admission to activities and events which occur at the facilities of Ralston Public Schools and for transportation to and from activities, events and trips outside the district, when those activities do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades and when student participation is voluntary.

5. A school may sell an activity ticket that admits students to activities and events that do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades.

6. Field trip fees may only be charged if participation by the student is voluntary and it does not relate to the required curriculum or if the field trip occurs after school hours and does not count toward school attendance.

B. Minor personal consumable items:

The District may require students to be responsible for the purchase of minor consumable items that are used by the student for extracurricular activities. The District will establish a master list of those items, which are considered minor personal consumable items, which may be required. Each school building

shall choose those items on the list, which it will require of students attending the school. No item which is not on the District's master list will be required. Each school shall annually submit its list of required personal consumable items to the District for approval and publication in that school's handbook.

C. School Store:

The District authorizes the operation of school stores in which students may purchase food, beverages and personal or consumable items. A school store need not have a permanent physical presence and may provide order forms for students to voluntarily purchase items from the school or another vendor. School stores may stock required personal and consumable items and make such items available to students for voluntary purchase. Schools may not require students to purchase an item directly from the school store.

D. Clothing:

In addition to school guidelines about general appropriateness of attire, school buildings may require students to furnish and wear non-specialized clothing meeting general guidelines for the specified courses and activities, if the guidelines are reasonably related to the course. Each school's clothing guidelines shall be submitted to the District for approval and publication in the student handbook.

E. Musical Instruments:

Students who take an elective band course shall be required to supply their own instrument or rent an instrument, except those students who qualify under part 3 of this policy. For those students qualifying under part 3 the district shall not be required to provide for the use of a particular type of musical instrument for any student. The District shall supply the music for such courses.

1. Personal supplies related to musical instruments including, but not limited to, items such as reeds, cork lubricant, pipe cleaners, cleaning cloths and other supplies of general upkeep and considered personal consumable items shall be the responsibility of the student.
2. Schools may require students to furnish their own musical instruments, stands, music and specialized attire for participation in extracurricular music organizations and activities.

F. Lost or damaged school property:

A school may require a student to reimburse the school district for repair or replacement of school district property, which is entrusted to the student and is lost or damaged, as well as property of the district damaged through the acts of a student.

The Board of Education authorizes assessment of fines for damaged, lost or overdue books purchased by the district and loaned to students free of charge.

G. Donations:

The District may request donations of money, materials, equipment or attire to help defray costs of educational programs. The request for donations will clearly indicate the request as a donation and not a requirement.

H. Parking:

Students may be required to pay to park their cars on school property. The District shall annually determine the amount to be charged for parking and publish it in the student handbook.

I. Yearbook, class rings and other optional purchases:

Students may be charged for the purchase of items such as yearbooks, class rings, class sweatshirts, graduation announcements and other such voluntary purchases.

J. Graduation attire:

Students may be required to pay the necessary fee to cover the cost of graduation attire required to participate in graduation ceremonies.

K. Food:

Students may be charged a fee for the purchase of breakfast and/or lunch. Students may be charged for the cost of food, beverages, and the like that students purchase from a school store, a vending machine, a booster club or similar sources. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

L. Summer school:

The District may annually set fees for student participation in classes offered during the summer. Any and all fees collected pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited into, and expended from, the Student Fee Fund.

M. Night school/Adult education:

The District may annually set fees for student participation in classes offered to students taking classes through the district's night school/adult education program. Any and all fees collected pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited into, and expended from, the Student Fee Fund.

N. Post-secondary education costs:

A student may be charged the actual tuition and fees associated with obtaining credits from a postsecondary educational institution when a student receives both high school credit and postsecondary education credit from a course being taken as part of an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program. Any and all fees collected pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited into, and expended from, the Student Fee Fund unless paid directly to the postsecondary educational institution.

O. Student files and records:

Fees may be charged for copies of student files or records. Parents of students have the right to inspect and review the student's files or records without the payment of a fee, and no fee shall be charged to search for or retrieve any student's files or records.

P. Materials Required for Course Projects

The district will provide students with the materials necessary to complete all basic curricular projects. In courses where students choose to produce a project that requires materials beyond the basic materials provided by the district, the students will furnish the materials, purchase the materials from the school, or purchase the materials from an outside vendor with an order form provided by the school.

PART TWO:

Student Fee Fund

Fees that are charged to students pursuant to PART ONE, subsections A.1, A.2, L, M and N shall be deposited into the Student Fee Fund and expended for the purpose for which they were collected from students.

PART THREE:

Waiver of Student Fees

Fees that are charged pursuant to PART ONE, subsections A and C shall be waived for students who qualify for participation in the free or reduced-price lunch program under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs. Actual participation in the free and reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for waivers in this section. All students shall be provided forms at the beginning of each school year, upon enrollment in the District, or at the request of the student, which provide the necessary information and permit the District to use this information to determine eligibility for fee waiver. Criteria for fee waiver will be the same as the criteria for participation in the free and reduced-lunch program. Application forms for fee waivers are available from each building principal. Once the school district has received a student's completed fee waiver application form, and has verified the student's eligibility, waiver of the fee shall be granted for the student. The district is not obligated to provide any particular type or quality of equipment or other material to eligible students.

Adopted on: July 9, 2018

Revised on:

Reviewed on: January 16, 2024