

## ***STUDENT FEES, FINES AND CHARGES***

The Rapides Parish School Board may impose certain student fees or charges to help offset special costs incurred in the operation of specific classrooms or subjects. **Generally, students should not be denied or delayed admission nor denied access to any instructional activity due to failure or inability of their parent or guardian to pay a fee. Report cards and other academic records cannot be withheld for failure to pay a fee, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:112(C).**

Students with outstanding financial obligations to a school shall be allowed to enroll in school with the understanding that the parent and principal work out a payment schedule to be honored within the time line established; further, that students who are unable to pay all current school fees upon enrollment be allowed to arrange a payment schedule to be met within a specified time frame. However, in accordance with La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:416, students who are suspended for damage to property shall not be admitted to school until the damage is paid in full.

Any school fees owed by a student shall be paid before the student shall be permitted to participate in commencement ceremonies from a public high school in Rapides Parish.

The School Board shall publish the *Student Fees, Fines and Charges* policy and procedures on its website. **Each school shall publish the policy on its website and include it in the school's student handbook which shall be provided to each student and his/her parent or legal guardian at the beginning of each school year in the manner determined by the School Board.**

The *Student Fees, Fines and Charges*, policy shall be reviewed annually and revised as necessary.

### DEFINITIONS

*Fees* shall mean any monetary payment or supplies required as a condition of a student being enrolled in school or participating in any curricular or co-curricular activity. Fees shall not include supplies or monetary payment for extracurricular activities. Fees shall not mean the cost of school meals.

*Curricular and co-curricular activities* are activities that are relevant, supportive, that are an integral part of the program of studies in which the student is enrolled, and that are under the supervision and/or coordination of the school instructional staff.

*Extracurricular activities* are those activities which are not directly related to the program of studies, which are under the supervision and/or coordination of the school instructional staff, and which are considered valuable for the overall development of the student.

### REGULATIONS

1. A school shall not charge or assess a fee unless the fee has been set and included in the School Board's approved *Schedule of Fees*.
2. Fees charged for the same item or service shall be consistent among all schools under the jurisdiction of the School Board.
3. Failure by a student, or parent on behalf of their child, to pay any required fee shall not result in the withholding of a student's educational record.

## SCHEDULE OF FEES

A list of authorized fees, including their purpose, use, amount or authorized range, and how each fee is collected, shall be as listed on the *Schedule of Fees*, (Appendix A) attached this policy.

## Economic Hardship Waivers

A student or his/her parent or legal guardian may request and receive a waiver of payment of a fee due to economic hardship. Waivers of fees shall be granted based on objective criteria relative to the student or his/her family, as listed below:

1. Qualifies for Homeless Services
2. Is in foster care or is caring for foster children
3. Experiences any other catastrophic financial event.

A written request for a waiver of fees shall be submitted to the principal of the school or his/her designee for consideration. Proof of eligibility shall be included with the fee waiver request. A written decision on the waiver request shall be rendered within five (5) school days of the date of receipt of the request. Should the initial request to the principal of the school for a waiver be denied, a written appeal may be made to the Superintendent or his/her designee, who shall respond to the appeal in writing within five (5) school days of the receipt of the appeal.

All requests for economic hardship waivers of student fees and any and all supporting documentation used in considering the validity of any request for a waiver shall be *confidential*.

All records associated with a fee waiver request due to economic hardship shall not constitute a *public record*, but may be audited to ensure compliance with the School Board's policy. A student's *personally identifiable information* associated with such a waiver request shall **not** be made public.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

School supplies requested by classroom teachers of a student's parent or legal guardian shall not exceed a published amount per student per school year as determined by the School Board. Each school principal shall approve all school supplies requested by classroom teachers. Prior to assessing a fee for school supplies or developing a school supply list, consideration shall be given to the existing school supply inventory. **A student shall not be denied the opportunity to participate in a classroom activity due to his or her inability to provide requested supplies.**

## DAMAGE TO TEXTBOOKS/INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The School Board may require parents and/or legal guardians to compensate the school district for lost, destroyed, or unnecessarily damaged books and materials, and for any books which are not returned to the proper schools at the end of each school year or upon withdrawal of their dependent child. Under no circumstances may a student of school age be held financially responsible for fees associated with textbook replacement.

Compensation by parents or guardians may be in the form of monetary fees or community/school service activities, as determined by the School Board. In the case of monetary fees, fines shall be limited to no more than the replacement cost of the textbook or material, but may, at the discretion of the School Board, be adjusted according to the physical condition of the lost or destroyed textbook. A school system may waive or reduce the payment required if the student is from a family of low income and may provide for a method of payment other than lump-sum payment.

School systems may withhold the grades of a student if a parent or guardian fails to adequately compensate the school or school system for lost, destroyed, or unnecessarily damaged books (through monetary fees or community/school service activities). However, under no circumstances may a school or school district refuse the parent/guardian the right to inspect relevant grades or records pertaining to the child nor may the school or school district refuse to promptly transfer the records of any child withdrawing or transferring from the school, per requirements of the Federal *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act*. Transfer of records shall not exceed forty five (45) days from the date of request.

Under no circumstances may a school or school district deny a student promotional opportunities, as a result of failure to compensate the school district for lost or damaged textbooks. Students shall not be denied continual enrollment each grading period nor re-entry in succeeding school years as a result of lost or damaged books.

Students shall not be denied the use of a textbook during school hours each day. The school system shall annually inform parents and/or legal guardians of the locally adopted procedures pursuant to state law and regulation, regarding reasonable and proper control of textbooks.

Revised: November 5, 2019

Ref: [20 USC 1232\(g-i\)](#) (*Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act*)  
La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:81, 17:112, 17:177, 17:178  
Board minutes, 8-29-94, 11-5-19

Rapides Parish School Board

<b>PURPOSE OF FEE</b>	<b>AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED</b>	<b>USE OF FEE</b>	<b>COLLECTION METHOD</b>
Student Fee (PreK-8)	\$20.00	Instructional materials Classroom/Art supplies Student incentives Various student needs	Due at the beginning of school; can be on a payment plan if needed
Student Fee (9-12)	\$40.00	Instructional materials Classroom/Art supplies Student incentives Various student needs	Due at the beginning of school; can be on a payment plan if needed
P. E. Uniform	\$20.00	Student P. E. Uniform	Due at the beginning of school; can be on a payment plan if needed
Math, English, Science, Social Studies	\$20.00	Instructional materials and classroom supplies	Due at the beginning of school; can be on a payment plan if needed
Other Course Fees	\$20.00	Instructional materials and classroom supplies	Due at the beginning of school; can be on a payment plan if needed
JROTC	\$50.00	Student P.T. uniform Instructional materials and classroom supplies	Due at the beginning of school; can be on a payment plan if needed
Fine Arts Elective Classes (other than Band, Orchestra, Choir, Theatre)	\$20.00	Instructional materials Classroom/Art/Cooking supplies	Due at the beginning of school; can be on a payment plan if needed
Parking Pass (required for student drivers)	\$10.00	Expenses for parking identification tag	Due prior to student driving personal vehicles to school
AP & DE class AP exam	\$40.00	Instructional materials, classroom supplies and testing	Due at the beginning of school; can be on a payment plan if needed
CTE	\$15.00	Applications and state certifications	Due at the beginning of school; can be on a payment plan if needed
School Supplies for Students (list is approved by school principal)	\$30.00	Student materials (binders, paper, notebooks, pens, pencils, markers, calculators, folders, etc.)	Due at the beginning of school; school helps provide if needed