

Operational Services

Student Fees

Waiver of Student Fees

The Superintendent or designee will recommend to the Board for adoption what fees, if any, will be charged for the use of textbooks, consumable materials, extracurricular activities, and other school fees. Students will pay for loss of school books or other school-owned materials.

Fees for textbooks, other instructional materials, and driver education are waived for students who meet the eligibility criteria for fee waiver contained in this policy. No student shall be denied educational services or academic credit due to the inability of parent(s)/guardian(s) to pay fees. The Superintendent or designee will recommend to the Board for adoption what additional fees, if any, the District will waive for students who meet the eligibility criteria for fee waiver. Students receiving a fee waiver are not exempt from charges for lost and damaged books, locks, materials, supplies, and equipment.

Notification

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that applications for fee waivers are widely available and distributed according to State law and Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) rule and that provisions for assisting parents/guardians to complete the application are available.

Eligibility Criteria

A student shall be eligible for a fee waiver when the student currently lives in a household that meets the same income guidelines, with the same limits based on household size, that are used for the federal free meals program.

The Superintendent or designee will give additional consideration where one or more of the following factors are present:

- Illness in the family;
- Unusual expenses such as fire, flood, storm damage, etc.;
- Seasonal unemployment;
- Emergency situations; and
- When one or more of the parent(s)/guardian(s) are involved in a work stoppage.

The parent(s)/guardian(s) shall submit written evidence of eligibility for waiver of the student's fee.

Verification

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a process for determining a student's eligibility for a waiver of fees in accordance with State law requirements. The Superintendent or designee may require family income verification at the time an individual applies for a fee waiver and anytime thereafter but not more often than once every 60 calendar days. The Superintendent or designee shall not use any information from this or any independent verification process to determine free or reduced-price meal eligibility.

If a student receiving a fee waiver is found to be no longer eligible during the school year, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the student's parent/guardian and charge the student a prorated amount based upon the number of school days remaining in the school year.

Determination and Appeal

Within 30 calendar days after the receipt of a waiver request, the Superintendent or designee will notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) promptly as to whether the fee waiver request has been granted or denied. A denial of a fee waiver request shall include: (1) the reason for the denial, (2) the process and timelines for making an appeal, and (3) a statement that the parent/guardian may reapply for a waiver any time during the school year if circumstances change. If the denial is appealed, the District shall follow the procedures for the resolution of appeals as provided in ISBE rule on waiver of fees.

Outstanding Fees

Students whose fees are not paid in full or who are not current on their district established payment plan may be restricted from participating in the following activities, unless the administration determines that participation is required by law:

1. Athletics – To participate in a sport, an athlete must have all fees (not just athletic fees) paid by the deadline which will be established each season and communicated to all families. Athletes who are not in good financial standing after that date will be allowed to continue to practice, but will not be allowed to compete or dress for a contest until the outstanding debt is resolved. This policy applies to both junior high school and high school athletes.
2. Extracurricular Activities – To participate in activities without curricular impact, students must have their fees paid two days prior to the first official meeting/event.
3. Prom/Homecoming Dances – Eligible students wishing to attend any district sponsored dance must have their fees paid by a specified date set by the district. In addition, any former district student who wishes to attend prom/homecoming as a guest must have any outstanding fees paid before a guest pass will be issued.
4. Parking Permit – Any student wishing to purchase a parking permit must have all fees from previous school years paid prior to applying for a permit.
5. Official Transcripts – Only unofficial transcripts will be issued until all outstanding fees are paid.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.13, 5/10-22.25, 5/27-24.2, and 5/28-19.2.
23 Ill.Admin.Code § 1.245 [may contain unenforceable provisions].

CROSS REF.: 4:130 (Free and Reduced-Price Food Services)

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