

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Section BUSINESS AND TRANSPORTATION

Policy Name STUDENT FEES

308

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POLICY

The Superior-Greenstone District School Board is committed to supporting students participating in school activities regardless of their individual economic circumstances.

DEFINITIONS

“student activity fees”– are voluntary amounts that are used to supplement a student’s school experience through materials and activities such as student agendas, student recognition programs, yearbooks, extracurricular activities, school dances, or theme days.

“enhanced programming and materials”–are voluntary enrichments or upgrades to the curriculum or co-curricular activities beyond what is necessary to meet the learning expectations for a particular grade or course. For example, in some performance and production courses (for example, music, woodworking), students may wish to use a superior product or consumable than that provided by the school, in which case they may be asked to pay the additional cost of the upgrade.

Where students choose not to access these enhanced programs or materials, alternatives must be available as essential course materials required to meet the learning expectations of the course or grade and are to be provided at no cost.

“optional programming”- refers to voluntary courses or activities that students normally choose to attend through an application process, with the knowledge that these programs are beyond the core curriculum. Examples may include Regional Arts and Advanced Placement® programs.

RATIONALE

Every student has the right to attend school, where he/she is a qualified resident pupil, without payment of a fee. The costs of materials and activities for elementary and secondary education are provided to schools by the Ministry of Education and are reflected in the Superior-Greenstone’s operating budgets.

When schools choose with the support of the school community to offer enhanced or optional programming, parents may be asked to contribute resources in the way of time, money, or materials to support these programs or activities. While no student should be excluded from participating in any school activity or event based on the ability to pay, some activities or events may require some recovery of the cost for participation.

Fees may be appropriate in cases where schools choose to offer enhancements or supplementary learning materials beyond the core curriculum. Where fees are appropriate, they should be minimized as much as possible, with the goal of supporting student participation in programs and activities regardless of individual economic circumstances.

1.0 Implementation

1.1 Guiding Principles

- 1.1.1 Every student's school experience is enriched by participation in a variety of activities and opportunities "beyond the classroom".
- 1.1.2 Students must be able to participate in any course and have the opportunity to acquire all skills and knowledge required to complete compulsory credit course requirements without any additional cost.
- 1.1.3 The Ministry of Education grants do not provide funding for all aspects of a student's school experience.
- 1.1.4 Schools are permitted to charge student activity fees.
- 1.1.5 Members of school communities should be consulted in the development of a school's fee schedule and should be made aware of the use of student fees.