

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Section	BUSINESS AND TRANSPORTATION		
Policy Name	STUDENT FEES <i>Management Guideline Applies</i>	308	
Board Approved: April 20, 2021 June 21, 2016 October 18, 2011	Reviewed: April 6, 2021 June 7, 2016 September 26, 2011	Review by: December 2026	

POLICY

The Superior-Greenstone District School Board is committed to ensuring that every student has equitable access to learning opportunities and school activities without financial barriers. No student should be denied participation in any required program, course, or school activity due to inability to pay. 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”—Voluntary contributions that support school-wide experiences beyond the classroom. These fees may cover items or events such as student agendas, recognition programs, yearbooks, extracurricular activities, school dances, or spirit days. Payment of these fees must never be a condition for participation in any mandatory course or program. 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.

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“enhanced programming and materials”—Optional upgrades or enrichments beyond what is necessary to meet curriculum expectations. Examples include premium art supplies, specialized music instruments, or advanced technology components.

Alternatives must be provided at no cost to meet all learning expectations. 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.

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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”—Programs or courses beyond the core curriculum that students voluntarily apply for, such as Hockey Skills Academy programs or Advanced Placement courses. 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

This policy establishes clear guidelines for when fees may be charged, ensuring compliance with the Education Act and the Ministry of Education’s Fees for Learning Materials and Activities guideline.

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The Ministry of Education provides funding to school boards for materials and activities as part of school board operating budgets.

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In general, there should be no fees charged for day school programs, other than tuition fees for non-resident students subject to the *Education Act*.

~~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 and guardians 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 optional 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 Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles

- 2.1 Fees must complement, not replace public funding for education.
- 2.1 All students must be able to complete compulsory courses, programs, and activities without additional cost.
- 2.1 Fee amounts should reflect actual costs and be kept as low as possible.
- 2.1 Schools must have a transparent process for fee waivers or subsidies.
- 2.1 Consultation with school councils and community stakeholders is required before implementing fee schedules.
- 2.1 Privacy and dignity of families requesting financial assistance must be respected.

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- 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.

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2.0 Prohibited Fees

- 2.1 Textbooks or basic learning materials required for graduation
- 2.2 Mandatory activities forming part of the regular day school program
- 2.3 Participation in credit courses

REFERENCES

- Ministry Guideline for Fees for Learning Materials and Activities