

# School Fees Notice for Families of Students in Grades K-6



## The Utah Constitution prohibits the charging of fees in elementary schools.

If a child is in kindergarten through grade six, they cannot be charged for textbooks, classroom equipment or supplies, musical instruments, field trips, assemblies, snacks (other than food provided through the School Lunch Program), or for anything else that takes place or is used during the regular school day.

**Fees may only be charged** for programs offered before or after school, or during school vacations. Fees may also be charged for a student that is in grade six and attends a school that includes one or more 7-12 grades, if the school follows a secondary model of delivering education to the school's grade six students.

Utah law requires schools that charge fees, to ensure that a fee waiver or other provisions in lieu of a fee waiver is available to any student whose parents are unable to pay a fee.

## Fee Waivers

A fee waiver is a full release from the requirement to pay a fee. If a student is eligible for fee waivers, **all fees must be waived**. If it is not specifically addressed in state law, a school must waive all fees, including anywhere a student's participation is optional. This means that those students who are eligible for a fee waiver can participate in any school class or activity free of charge.

A student is eligible for a waiver if:

- their family receives TANF funding (food stamps or state Family Employment Program);
- the student receives SSI (Supplemental Security Income);
- the student is designated McKinney-Vento;
- the student is in foster care;
- the student is in state custody; or
- the student is eligible based on family/household income (the levels match those of free lunch eligibility).

*\* A student may also be eligible for fee waivers if they do not meet any of these standards but are still unable to pay a fee. Please see the local school or district policy for more information.*

If a student wishes to apply for fee waivers, they will be asked to provide documentation of fee waiver eligibility as part of the application process.

To apply for a fee waiver, a student may submit the "Fee Waiver Application (Grades K-6)". A copy of the application is included with this notice and additional copies may be obtained from the school office, or the state school fees website listed at the end of this document. Once the documents have been submitted to the school, the fee requirement will be suspended until a final decision has been reached about the student's eligibility for fee waivers.

If the application is denied, the school will send a "Decision and Appeal Form". The Form will explain why the application was denied and how to appeal the decision. Remember to always keep a copy. If an appeal for a denial of fee waivers is submitted, all fees will not need to be paid until the appeal is decided.

If a student's wishes to purchase school pictures, yearbooks, or similar items through the school, those costs are not fees and will not be waived. Also, if a student loses or damages school property, the costs of replacement or repair are not fees and need not be waived.

# Donations, Confidentiality, and Enforcement of Fees

School funds are limited, and a school may need help in addition to fees. As a result, the school may ask for tax-deductible donations of school supplies, equipment, or money, but the school cannot require donations.

A student's name is confidential and cannot be disclosed to anyone lacking both a right and a need to know the information, regardless of whether a student has paid fees, donations, and contributions or not, or has applied for, received, or been denied waivers. The school may, however, with the consent of the donor, give appropriate recognition to any person or organization making a major donation or contribution to the school.

The school and school staff cannot withhold, reduce, or enhance grades or credit, or withhold grades, class schedules, credit, report cards, transcripts, or diplomas to enforce the payment of fees.

## For further information, contact:

The school secretary at your child's school



Utah State Board of Education School Fees website: <https://schools.utah.gov/schoolfees>

Utah State Board of Education School Fees Team

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