

STUDENT FEES

The Wakefield Board of Education acknowledges that the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act authorizes school districts to charge student fees for certain student activities and requires the district to adopt a policy addressing student fees. Further, the board recognizes the fact that there are expenses relating to educational and extracurricular programs and activities that may require financial participation by students and their parents or guardians. In order to provide the district's students and their parents or guardians with guidance regarding the district's position on student fees, the board of education enacts the following Student Fee Policy. It is the intent of the board to provide equal access for students to all programs while complying with the laws of Nebraska and the rules and regulations of the Nebraska Department of Education. No fees, specialized or nonspecialized attire or equipment shall be required of students outside this policy. This policy does not apply to tuition payments by nonresident students.

A. DEFINITIONS.

- (1) Extracurricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the school district, which do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades, and in which participation is not otherwise required by the school district;
- (2) Postsecondary education costs means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a postsecondary educational institution. For a course in which students receive both high school and postsecondary education credit or a course being taken as part of an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-1106 to 79-1100.03, the course shall be offered without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees, except tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credits from a postsecondary educational institution.

B. FEES AUTHORIZED.

Except as provided otherwise herein, the district may require and collect fees or other funds from or on behalf of students or require students to provide specialized equipment or specialized attire for any of the following purposes:

1. Participation in extracurricular activities;
2. Admission fees and transportation charges for spectators attending extracurricular activities;
3. Postsecondary education costs.
4. Transportation pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-241, 79-606. and 79-611.
5. Copies of student files or records pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2,104.
6. Reimbursement to the district for school district property lost or damaged by the student;

7. Before-and-after-school or prekindergarten services offered pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-1104;
8. Summer school or night school;
9. Breakfast and lunch programs;
10. Any other fee authorized by law.

C. PERSONAL OR CONSUMABLE ITEMS.

The district shall require students to furnish minor personal or consumable items for specified courses and activities, including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers, crayons, scissors, basic clothing, notebooks, and similar personal or consumable items. Equipment or supplies of a specialized nature for certain courses (protractors and math calculators, for example) may be made available to students by the District, but students are encouraged to purchase their own such equipment or supplies for their own use after school hours or for use during the school day.

While the School District will provide students with the use of facilities, equipment, materials, and supplies, including books, the students are expected to be responsible for the careful and appropriate use of such property. Students and their parents/guardians will be held responsible for the cost of damages to school property caused or aided by the student and will also be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of school property which is placed in the care of and lost by the student or damaged while in the student's care.

D. NONSPECIALIZED ATTIRE (CLOTHING).

Students shall be required to furnish and wear the following nonspecialized attire meeting the general written guidelines for the specified courses and activities.

Physical Education	All students: T-Shirts, tennis shoes, sports socks, gym shorts. Middle & High School Males: Athletic Supporter Middle & High School Females: Sports Bra.
Industrial Tech.	In shop area: Long trousers or denim jeans, appropriate footwear and eye protection when appropriate.

All clothing requirements should be consistent with meeting the health, safety and instructional needs of the course.

E. COURSE PROJECT MATERIALS.

The district may charge a student fee or require students to provide materials for course projects if upon completion of the course or project, the project becomes the property of the student. Classes, such as Industrial Technology, Art, and some elementary classes, may have students work on special projects. At the beginning of a semester instructors will provide students with a list of basic learning projects for which the school district will provide materials at no cost to the students. The school district will furnish supplies for the basic learning projects.

If a student, including any Fee Waiver students chooses to work on a project, which is not considered a part of the basic learning project, and desires to take the completed project home, the class instructor, the building principal, and the student's parents or guardians must approve the cost of the project. The student will be expected to reimburse the school district for the cost of the project, including hardware, finish material and/or waste or spoilage, which may be associated with the project.

F. MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND ACTIVITIES.

- The district shall require students to furnish musical instruments for participation in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities.
- Musical instruments shall be provided without charge for any student who qualifies as a Fee Waiver Student.
- To qualify for the fee waiver option, the appropriated fee waiver form must be correctly completed and on file by the fee waiver deadline date.
- The district shall **not** be obligated to provided a particular type of musical instrument for any student.
- Personal supplies related to musical instruments including but not limited to items such as reeds, drum sticks, lyres, valve oil, slide grease, reed guards, mouthpiece brushes, pad savers, ligatures, cork lubricant, pipe cleaners, cleaning cloths, and other cleaning supplies are considered to be minor personal consumable items and shall be the responsibility of the student and/or his/her parent/guardian.

G. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

Students shall be required to furnish the following specialized equipment or attire for the following extracurricular activities:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Description</u>
Football	Football shoes, mouth guard, athletic supporter
Volleyball	Appropriate footwear, sports bra
Basketball	Males: Appropriate footwear, athletic supporter Females: Appropriate footwear, sports bra
Wrestling	Appropriate footwear, athletic supporter
Golf	Males/Females: Clubs, bag, footwear, tees, balls
Track	Track shoes
Swing Choir	Performance outfit

- Other than athletic supporters, sports bras, and mouth guards all specialized equipment or attire for extracurricular activities shall be provided without charge for any student who qualifies as a Fee Waiver Student.
- To qualify for the fee waiver option, the appropriated fee waiver form must be correctly completed and on file by the fee waiver deadline date.

The district shall **not** be obligated to provide a particular type of specialized equipment or attire for any student, which may be specially fitted or worn exclusively by a student. These items may include but are not limited to: special choir or swing choir attire, T-shirts, sweatshirts, or shooter-shirts with specific logos or personally identifying stitching, golf clubs, golf balls, golf tees and other incidental sport equipment or supplies. Special medical braces or mouthpieces, which may be individually fitted, will be the responsibility of the student and/or his/her parent/guardian.

H. POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

Students shall be required to pay the following fees for postsecondary educational offerings: For a course in which students receive postsecondary education credit or a course being taken as part of an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-1106 to 79-1100.03, the course shall be offered without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees, except tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credits from a postsecondary educational institution.

I. TRANSPORTATION COSTS.

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-241, 79-605, and 79-611, the following students may be required to pay reasonable and equitable transportation fees: option enrollment students not qualifying as a Fee Waiver Student and nonresident students as allowed by state statute.

J. SCHOOL STORE.

The district may operate a school store in which students may purchase food, beverages, and personal or consumable items. The sale of food and beverage items shall not be offered in competition with the schools lunch or breakfast program. Items purchased from the school store shall not be subject to any fee waiver.

K. STUDENT RECORD COPY FEES.

No fee shall be charged to students, their parent(s), and/or their guardian(s) for copies of a student's files or records provided pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-2104. The school district reserves the right to establish a schedule of fees representing a reasonable cost of reproduction for copies of a student's files or records for the parents or guardians of such student pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-2104.

L. BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAM.

The district shall establish the cost of school breakfast and lunch meals at the regularly scheduled July board meeting. Students will be charged said amount or an amount established through the United States Department of Agriculture Child Nutrition Program if the family of the student qualifies for free or reduced price meals.

M. OTHER ITEMS.

Items such as yearbooks, class rings, graduation announcements and related graduation keepsakes, student pictures, letter jackets, and similar items are sold as a convenience to students and are not considered to be fees and are not covered by the fee waiver portion of this policy. Fines for overdue library books, abuse and/or damage to school property, and other school rules, regulations, and policies developed for the safe and efficient operations of the school are not considered to be student fees.

N. EYE PROTECTIVE DEVICES

The district shall supply eye protective devices for teachers, students and visitors to all shops and laboratories meeting the standard of the American National Standard Practice for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection as approved by ANSI.

Every teacher and student shall be required to wear eye protective devices at all times while participating in or observing the following courses of instruction:

1. Vocational, technical, industrial arts, chemical, or chemical-physical, involving exposure to:
 - A. Hot molten metals or other molten materials;
 - B. Milling, sawing, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding, or stamping of any solid materials;
 - C. Heat treatment, tempering, or kiln firing of any metal or other materials;
 - D. Gas or electric arc welding or other forms of welding processes;
 - E. Repair or servicing of any vehicle; or
 - F. Caustic or explosive materials; and
2. Chemical, physical, or combined chemical-physical laboratories involving caustic or explosive materials, hot liquids or solids, injurious radiations, or other hazards not enumerated.

O. DRIVER EDUCATION.

The district shall annually establish the cost of participation in the Summer Driver Education course. This participation in Driver Education is optional and therefore does not qualify as a Fee Waiver program.

P.PUBLIC HEARING.

On or before August, 2002, and annually each year thereafter, the Wakefield Board of Education shall hold a public hearing at a regular or special meeting of the board on proposed student fee policy, following a review of the amount of money collected from students pursuant to, and the use of waivers provided in, the student fee policy for the prior school year. The student fee policy shall be adopted by a majority vote of the school board and shall be published in the student handbook. The board shall provide a copy of the student handbook to every student at no cost to the student. The student fee policy shall include specific details regarding those items required by law. In the event that the district should consider offering services or materials for a fee which is not offered at the time that this policy is adopted or if the district should consider charging a fee for services or materials currently provided at no charge to the student or their parents or if any other change is deemed necessary, a public hearing shall be held at a regular or special meeting of the Board of Education on the proposed changes to the student fee policy before any changes to the policy are adopted. If changes are made to the policy after the public hearing, written notice shall be provided to the students and their parents as soon as is practical.

Q. STUDENT FEE FUND.

The district hereby establishes a student fee fund. The student fee fund shall be comprised of all money collected from students from.

- a. Participation in extracurricular activities,
- b. postsecondary education costs, and
- c. summer school or night school. No other money shall be deposited in the student fee fund, whether from other student fees or taxes, and the money shall be expended for the purposes for which it was collected from the students.

R. FEE WAIVER.

Any fees to be charged or materials required to be provided for the following shall be waived for students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs:

- (1) Participation in extracurricular activities;
- (2) Admission fees and transportation charges for spectators attending extracurricular activities;
- (3) Specialized equipment or specialized attire for participation in extracurricular activities;
- (4) "Course Project Materials" as provided in paragraph E.

- (5) Musical instruments both for participation in optional music courses that are not -extracurricular activities and for participation in extracurricular activities.

Other student fees may also be waived at the discretion of the superintendent or his or her designee for students who qualify for free or reduced-priced lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs.

Students who do not qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs whose families are experiencing a temporary financial difficulty due to such factors including but not necessarily limited to illness in the family, unusual expenses such as fire,, flood, storm damage, etc., seasonal employment, or emergency situations may be eligible for a temporary waiver of student fees. Parents or students who believe they may qualify for temporary financial hardship should contact the Superintendent's Office for a waiver form. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall determine whether the fee waiver should be granted in whole or in part, and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) shall be notified of the decision in a prompt manner. This waiver does not carry over from year to year and must be completed annually.

A fee waiver may also be authorized by the superintendent on the basis of superior academic achievement, service to the school district (including but not limited to tutorial assistance to other students, assistance before or after school to teacher or other school personnel, or general community service), or meritorious accomplishment.

S. PENALTIES.

Students who fail to pay overdue student fees may be subject to administrative penalties including (but not limited to) exclusion from graduation and commencement ceremonies or related activities, exclusion from prom, withholding of the yearbook or annual, etc. Students shall not be denied a diploma, transcript, or credit for course work completed for failure to pay student fees.

T. FUND-RAISING.

Students may be required to partake in fund-raising activities in order to participate in extracurricular activities. If fund-raising is required for a particular extracurricular activity, any student participating in said activity shall be expected and required to participate equally and share equally in whatever funds are raised.

U. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.

If any section or part of this policy is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the declaration will not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions.

Public concerns or complaints regarding required fees, attire or equipment shall be addressed under Policy 1005.01, Public Complaints.

This policy will be reviewed and re-adopted annually by August 1 at a regular or special meeting of the board. This shall include a review of the amount of money collected under this policy and the use of waivers as provided by this policy. The policy shall be published in the student handbook provided at no cost to each student.

Neb. Statute 79-215 (tuition)
79-241 (option student busing)
79-605 (nonresident busing)
79-611 (transportation fees)
79-734 (books, equipment and supplies)
79-2,104 (student files)
79-2,125 to 2,134 (student fees law)
79-1104 (before-and-after-school services)
79-1106 to 1108 (learners with high ability)

Cross Reference: 505.05 Fines for Lost or Damaged Items
506 Student Activities
507.01 Student Records Access
801 Transportation
802.05 Free or Reduced Cost Meals Eligibility
1005.01 Public Complaints