

Student Fees

Board Policy: A-13
Adopted: August 10, 1992

I. General Policy Statement

The Board is required by law to establish any charges made to students in accordance with state statute. While public education should be free to all students, limited funds have forced boards to share costs of specialized courses and programs with parents and students.

While it is desirable for the community to share in the total costs of a strong instructional program, the minimum standards should be financed from school system funds. The Board shall maintain the lowest possible level of fees.

II. Regulations

A. Course Fees

North Carolina General Statute 115-35 requires that local boards regulate and approve all fees, charges, and costs collected from students and school personnel, record these in the minutes of the Board and report these to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

B. Other

1. A schedule of local school club fees, graduation gowns and diploma fees shall be maintained at the school with a copy on file in the Superintendent's Office.
2. Assessments or requests for funds in order to obtain materials such as workbooks, Weekly Readers, etc., which are to be used in the instructional program are fees even though children may be told it is not an absolute requirement.
3. Schools should not assess students for assemblies or other similar programs. Programs such as these should be paid for through school funds.
4. The items above do not preclude schools or teachers from serving as a central order point for obtaining paperback books or other printed materials for students, provided those materials are not intended for use in the regular instructional program for children.

C. Sale of Instructional Materials

While the sale of items in schools is not a fee as such, this practice does increase the cost of education. Therefore, the Board approves a limited program of instructional sales.

1. Students enrolled in shop or activity type courses will purchase materials for projects which will result in objects to be taken home. Such materials will be purchased from instructors at cost. Miscellaneous materials essential to any and all projects will be furnished from course fees and school system funds.
2. Items sold in school stores will be limited to general articles essential to student learning. They may include pencils, paper, notebooks, and other similar instructional supplies.

D. Fee Waivers

If the student fees are greater than any family can economically afford the student fees shall be waived. Each case shall be determined individually by the principal or his or her designee.