

<i><b>Rainy River District School Board</b></i>	<b>SECTION 4</b> <i>Students</i>
<b>STUDENT FEES</b>	<b>4.48</b>

## **POLICY**

The Rainy River District School Board will ensure all qualified resident students will have access to day school programming without payment of a fee.

## **RATIONALE**

Funding for elementary and secondary education is provided by the Ministry of Education and is reflected in the Board's operating budget.

Schools may choose, with the support of the school community, to offer enhanced or optional programming that is not included in the Board's operating budget. Parents/guardians and students may be asked to contribute resources in the way of money, time or materials to support these programs or activities.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

As per Procedure 4.48, Student Fees

## **GUIDELINES**

### **1.0 General Guidelines**

- 1.1 Successful completion of a required grade or course leading to graduation will not be dependent on the payment of any course fees.
- 1.2 Students must be able to participate in any course required to complete compulsory credit course requirements without any additional cost.
- 1.3 Examples of activities, program or materials ineligible for fee charges include:
  - a textbook fee or deposit;
  - learning materials that are required for completion of the curriculum such as workbooks, science supplies, lab material kits, pencils/pens;
  - in-class field trips or presentations where the material being presented is a mandatory element of the subject or course.
- 1.4 Schools may recover the costs for the replacement or repair if students have lost, damaged, or broken materials such as textbooks, library books, music or science supplies, technology, or any loaned materials. These charges must not exceed the replacement or repair cost.

## **2.0 Optional or Enhanced Activities**

- 2.1 Optional or enhanced activities, programs 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 will be minimized as much as possible, with the goal of supporting student participation in programs and activities regardless of individual economic circumstances.
- 2.2 A fee is only charged for supplies, services, or activities that are considered optional or enhancements to the program or course. Examples of activities, programs, or materials eligible for fee charges include:
- extra-curricular trips, events, or activities that are extensions to the curriculum and not required for course completion and/or graduation;
  - extended student trips or excursions that are not necessary to meet the learning expectations of a particular grade or course;
  - optional art or music supplies or higher quality woodworking, design or technology materials that students choose to use for course completion, as long as the required materials are available at no cost;
  - student activity fees;
  - programs such as the Hockey Academy;
  - student agendas and yearbooks.
- 2.3 Alternative programming and assignments will be offered to students who do not participate in co-curricular activities, special events, program enhancements, or field trips.

## **3.0 Fees**

- 3.1 Fees will reflect the actual cost of the services or materials being provided to the student.
- 3.2 Any charges for supplies, services, or activities will be reviewed with the school council before implementation, and prior to the end of each school year.
- 3.3 Charges for supplies, services, or activities will be communicated to the school community through school newsletters (where applicable), websites, and referenced in student/school handbooks, and must include an itemized list of fees with the rationale and purpose of each fee.
- 3.4 When fees are required, schools shall honour the dignity of every student and parent/guardian in the fee collection process. Principals will develop and clearly communicate procedures that support the discrete identification and privacy of parents/guardians and students experiencing financial hardship.

**Definitions:**

**A Non-Resident Student** – A non-resident student as defined by the *Education Act* is a person who attends a school operated by the Board but who is one of the following three groups.

1. First Nation students residing on reserve whose attendance is provided for in an education services agreement between the Board and a First Nation.
2. Canadians whose permanent residence is in a province other than Ontario.
3. International students whose permanent residence is outside Canada.

**Student Activity Fees** – are voluntary amounts that are used to supplement a student’s school experience through materials and activities such as agendas, recognition programs, yearbooks, extra-curricular activities, school dances, or theme days.

**Enhanced Programming and Materials** – are voluntary enrichments or enhancements 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 (e.g., music, woodworking), students may wish to use a superior product or consumable than that provided by the school.

**Optional or Alternative 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 include Advanced Placement® and Hockey Skills Canada Programs.

<u>CROSS REFERENCE</u>	<u>Approved</u> April 2, 2019	<u>LEGAL/MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REFERENCE</u>
Policies: 8.24 Fundraising 4.63 Extra-curricular Activities  Procedures: 2.67 Equity and Inclusive Education 8.24 Fundraising 8.25 School Funds  Other: RRDSB Equity Plan	<u>Board Motion</u> 29  <u>Review Prior to</u> 2024	<i>Education Act</i> , Section 32, Section 171 (1) 31.1 Ontario Regulation 293  <i>Ministry of Education -Guideline for Fees for Learning Materials and Activities</i>