



FEE WAIVER POLICY

Approval date: October 9, 2008

PURPOSE

The purpose of a Fee Schedule and a Fee Waiver is to provide educational opportunities for all students. This allows the school to establish a reasonable system of fees, while prohibiting practices that would exclude those unable to pay from participation in school-sponsored activities.

We must abide by the State Board of Education rules, which direct the Board of Education to implement a policy regarding student fees. The rule is authorized under Article X, Section 2 and 3 of the Utah Constitution which vests general control and supervision of the public education system in the State Board of Education and provides that elementary and secondary schools shall be free except that fees may be imposed in secondary schools as authorized by the Legislature. State law also allows schools to establish money collection and handling procedures.

POLICY

Under the direction of the School Council, the director is authorized to administer this policy and to do so fairly, objectively, without delay, avoiding stigma and unreasonable burdens on students or parents/guardians.

If at any time in the future this policy is in conflict with state law the School Council recognizes that state law prevails.

CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES DURING THE REGULAR SCHOOL DAY

No fee may be charged in Kindergarten through sixth grades for materials, textbooks, supplies, or for any class or activity, including assemblies and field trips.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL DAY

Fees may be charged, subject to the School Council approving a fee schedule in connection with any school-sponsored activity which does not take place during the regular school day, regardless of the age or grade level of the student, if participation is voluntary and does not affect a student's grade or ability to participate fully in any course taught during the regular school day. Such fees are subject to the fee waiver requirement. The Ranches Academy currently does not offer any school-sponsored activities outside of the regular school day. If the school chooses to offer school-sponsored activities outside of the regular school day, the School Council will approve a fee schedule.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

No fee may be charged or assessed in connection with any class or school-sponsored activity, including extracurricular activities, unless the fee has been set and approved by the School Council and distributed in an approved fee schedule.

In accordance with Utah Code Ann. 53A-11-806, any school whose property has been lost or willfully cut, defaced, or otherwise injured may withhold the issuance of official written grade reports, diploma, and transcripts of the student responsible for the damage or loss until the student or the student's parent or guardian has paid for the damages.

1. Students shall be given notice an opportunity to pay fines prior to withholding issuance of official written grade reports, diplomas and transcripts.
2. If the student and the student's parent or guardian are unable to pay for damages or if it is determined by the school in consultation with the student's parents that the student's interest would not be served if the parents were to pay for the damages, then, the school may provide for a program of voluntary work for the student in lieu of the payment.
3. A general breakage fee levied against all students in a class or school is not permitted. A student may not be excluded from school or withhold unofficial transcripts to obtain payment of school fees or fines.

Donations or contributions may be solicited and accepted, but all such requests must clearly state that donations and contributions are voluntary. A donation is a fee if a student must make a donation in order to participate in an activity. No student may be excluded from an activity or program because they did not make a donation.

In the collection of school fees, the school must comply with statutes and State Tax Commission rules regarding the collection of state sales tax.

ITEMS NOT SUBJECT TO WAIVERS

The requirements of a fee waiver and availability of other provisions in lieu of fee waiver do not apply to charges assessed pursuant to a student's damaging or losing school property. The school shall pursue reasonable methods for obtaining payment for such charges, including withholding official grade reports, diplomas, and transcripts as indicated in this policy. Charges for yearbooks, picture books, and similar articles are not required for participation in a class or activity, are not fees and are not subject to the waiver requirements.