

**STUDENTS**

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Student Fees, Fines, and Charges

Within the concept of free public education, the District will provide an educational program for students as free of costs as possible.

The Board may charge a student a reasonable fee for any course or activity not reasonably related to a recognized academic and educational goal of the District or for any course or activity taking place outside normal school functions. The Board may waive fees in cases of financial hardship.

The Board delegates authority to the Superintendent to establish appropriate fees and procedures governing collection of fees and asks the Superintendent to make annual reports to the Board regarding fee schedules. The Board also may require fees for actual cost of breakage and for excessive supplies used in commercial, industrial arts, music, domestic science, science, or agriculture courses.

The District holds a student responsible for the cost of replacing materials or property that are lost or damaged because of negligence. A building administrator will notify a student and parent regarding the nature of violation or damage, how restitution may be made, and how an appeal may be instituted. The District may withhold a student’s grades or diploma until restitution is made. The District may not refuse to transfer files to another district because a student owes fines or fees. A school district may withhold the grades, diploma, or transcripts of a current or former pupil who is responsible for the cost of school materials or the loss or damage of school property until the pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian satisfies the obligation.

A school district that decides to withhold a pupil's grades, diploma, or transcripts from the pupil and the pupil's parent or guardian shall:

- (a) upon receiving notice that the pupil has transferred to another school district in the state, notify the pupil's parent or guardian in writing that the school district to which the pupil has transferred will be requested to withhold the pupil's grades, diploma, or transcripts until any obligation has been satisfied;
- (b) forward appropriate grades or transcripts to the school to which the pupil has transferred;
- (c) at the same time, notify the school district of any financial obligation of the pupil and request the withholding of the pupil's grades, diploma, or transcripts until any obligations are met;
- (d) when the pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian satisfies the obligation, inform the school district to which the pupil has transferred;

A student or parent may appeal the imposition of a charge for damages to the Superintendent and to the Board.

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|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Legal reference: | § 20-1-213 (3), MCA | Transfer of school records |
|                  | § 20-5-201(4), MCA  | Duties and sanctions       |
|                  | § 20-7-601, MCA     | Free textbook provisions   |
|                  | § 20-9-214, MCA     | Fees                       |

Policy History:

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Reviewed on: 2/25/08

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