



Staff Report to the Board of Education

March 13, 2024

SCHOOL FEES 2024/2025

Adrian Johnson, Secretary Treasurer

AUTHORIZED FEES

Schools may charge families for school supplies and equipment for a student's personal use and for other activities. Such charges must be consistent with the School Act.

Staff do not propose a change in the maximum fees authorised by the Board for next year.

School	Fee	2023/24 \$	Proposed 2024/25 \$
Elementary schools	Supplies, agenda and cultural activity total	Up to \$70	Up to \$70
Secondary schools	Student activity, including school agenda book	Up to \$40	Up to \$40
Secondary schools	Band instrument rental	Up to \$30	Up to \$30

In addition to the above fees, all schools may charge for optional field trips, programs, yearbooks, graduation activities, and other services and supplies on a cost-recovery basis. Such charges must be consistent with the School Act.

SCHOOL ACT REQUIREMENTS

The School Act provides the authority for the Board to charge fees as outlined in this staff report. Relevant extracts from the School Act and Regulation are:

SCHOOL ACT

82 (1) A board must provide free of charge to every student of school age resident in British Columbia and enrolled in an educational program in a school operated by the board,

- (a) instruction in an educational program sufficient to meet the general requirements for graduation,
- (b) instruction in an educational program after the student has met the general requirements for graduation, and
- (c) educational resource materials necessary to participate in the educational program.

(3) Subject to subsections (1) and (2.1), section 82.4 and the orders of the minister, a board may charge fees for goods and services provided by the board.

SCHOOL REGULATION

"educational resource materials" means

(a) information, represented or stored in a variety of media and formats, that is used for instruction in an educational program including, without limitation, the materials referred to in section 3 of Ministerial Order 333/99, the Educational Program Guide Order, and

(b) materials and equipment necessary to meet the learning outcomes or assessment requirements of an educational program provided by a board

but does not include

(c) paper, writing tools, calculators other than graphical calculators, student planners, exercise books, computers used for distributed learning, computer storage media and other school supplies and equipment for a student's personal use, and

(d) appropriate personal clothing for school activities such as gym strip, footwear, outerwear and personal safety equipment;

"goods and services" includes, but is not limited to,

(a) materials and equipment of a nature, or of a quality or quantity, beyond that which is necessary to meet the required learning outcomes or assessment requirements of an educational program provided by a board,

(b) paper, writing tools, calculators other than graphical calculators, student planners, exercise books, computer storage media and other school supplies and equipment for a student's personal use, and

(c) Repealed. [B.C. Reg. 264/2007, s. 2 (b).]

(d) the payment of expenses, including expenses for transportation, accommodation, meals, entrance fees and equipment rentals, in respect of optional field trips or special events that are not necessary to meet the required learning outcomes or assessment requirements of an educational program provided by the board;