



## FEES FOR LEARNING MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES

<b>Superintendent Responsible:</b> Superintendent of Education, Secondary Schools	<b>Initial Effective Date:</b> 2020/04/27
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### Purpose:

To outline the circumstances, purpose and process for collecting fees for learning materials and activities.

### Guiding Principles:

#### 1.0 Equity and Inclusive Education

- 1.1 Socio-economic circumstances are one of many factors that the Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) must consider in order to create barrier-free, equitable opportunities for all students. In situations where fees may be charged to students, every effort shall be made to assist students with limited financial means. The Administrator(s) will develop collection methods that maintain the dignity of and that afford reasonable expectations of privacy for students and parent(s)/caregiver(s) and develop and communicate a practice for the respectful and private identification of students/parent(s)/caregiver(s) who may be experiencing financial hardship.

#### 2.0 Regular Day School

There shall be no fees charged to a student to participate in the regular day school program. A student has a right to attend without fee.

If the student is in the regular day school program:

- 2.1 There will be no fees or cost charged to students to participate in the regular day school program. In some courses (e.g., art, music, construction technology) students may wish to use an alternate product or consumable than that is offered provided by the school, in which case they will be asked to pay the additional cost to be provided upgraded materials
- 2.2 Fees may not be charged for a textbook or a textbook deposit
- 2.3 Fees may not be charged for a workbook. If the workbook is used as a regular part of the program, the school shall provide the workbook to all students. Fees may be charged for a workbook if the workbook is optional. To the extent possible, schools must minimize dependence on charges for learning and/or resource materials

#### 3.0 Other School Registers

- 3.1 Schools may collect a book deposit if the student's enrolment is contained on a continuing education student register, an adult credit course student register, or an international language student register. The book deposit will be refunded upon return of the textbook or resource to the school.

#### 4.0 Student Fees at Schools

- 4.1 The Administrator(s) is responsible for ensuring that the materials required to meet the expectations of the core curriculum are available without cost to students. No fee may be charged for learning resources that are essential to the delivery of a core course or program.
- 4.2 The Administrator(s) must review all proposed optional charges for all courses prior to inclusion of such optional charges in any publication, and prior to the fee being

- levied. When changes cannot be incorporated into already-published materials, the Administrator(s) will inform parent(s)/caregiver(s) in writing of the new fee(s).
- 4.3 All field trips for which there is a cost must be optional to a course. Where the student chooses not to participate in an optional field trip, alternative assignments must be provided in order for the student to meet the expectations of the course.
  - 4.4 In order to maximize the resources provided to students, Grand Erie promotes green practices which include judicious use of consumable items in all school programs.
  - 4.5 Schools may collect student activity fees and/or admission fees to recover the cost of participation in optional extra-curricular activities.
  - 4.6 No student will be denied access to report cards, courses, use of the library, or a locker for failure to pay student activity fees.
  - 4.7 Administrator(s) shall communicate with employees, student councils, and school councils about student activity and athletic fees.
  - 4.8 Optional programs are courses or activities that students choose to attend in addition to regular day school programs, with knowledge that these programs are beyond the provincially mandated curriculum. Examples may include Advanced Placement, Hockey Canada Skills Academy, or specialized courses. Throughout the course selection process, schools must communicate information to parent(s)/caregiver(s) and students regarding optional program fees. It is understood that fees can be subject to change based upon reasonable and unforeseen circumstances.
  - 4.9 The basic Secondary Athletic Fee will be determined by the Administrator(s) of each school in consultation with School Council and will be reviewed on an annual basis. Fees may include: tournament costs, game or sport based equipment, supplemental sport costs (referee fees, rentals etc.) and athletic celebrations and awards. Administrator(s) may request an increase to the fee, having undertaken the appropriate consultation with members of the school community. The fee structure should be established so that the fees collected offset, but do not exceed, the associated costs related to the whole school year offering of sporting activities.
  - 4.10 The following statements **must be included in the School Profile and the Student Handbook**.

## 5.0 Student Fees

- 5.1 There will be no fees or cost charged to students to participate in the regular day school program. Fees may be charged where the student chooses to upgrade the material or where purchase of material is optional. Students enrolled in Grand Erie schools can expect to be provided with the basic classroom learning resources that are required in order to complete the course expectations. It is recognized there may be optional resources that students may purchase to enhance their programs, e.g., field trips, upgrading materials in courses such as construction technology and visual arts. Students may choose enhanced program options where fees are required to recover associated costs.
- 5.2 Students are expected to come to school ready and willing to participate actively in their own learning. To that end, students are expected to bring materials with them for their own personal schoolwork. Teachers will communicate the basic materials needed to complete learning tasks in each class; e.g., pencils, pens, pencil crayons, markers, erasers, rulers, calculators, etc.
- 5.3 Students are encouraged to pay the student activity fee. The activity fee includes access to the co-instructional program (e.g., sports, dances and other school activities). Students involved in co-instructional teams, groups and clubs will be made aware of any additional fund-raising obligations or participation fees prior to making a commitment to participate.
- 5.4 The basic Secondary Athletic Fee will be determined by the Administrator(s) of each school in consultation with School Council and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The fee will be waived or subsidized for students who may be experiencing financial hardship as per 1.1.

- 5.5 Students and families experiencing hardship may contact the Administrator(s) for assistance to support students' success in school.

**6.0 Fees for Damaged or Lost Material**

- 6.1 The Administrator(s) may charge fees for the replacement or repair of textbooks, library material, technology, or other loaned materials (e.g., equipment), if loaned material is not returned as required or is returned in damaged condition. The fee may not exceed the replacement or repair cost, as appropriate.

**Reference(s):**

- Fees for Learning Materials and Activities Policy (SO-22)
- Ministry Memo 2010:B11