

## 5045 Student Fees

The Board of Education of Lexington Public Schools adopts the following Student Fees Policy in accordance with the revised Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fees Authorization Act of the State of Nebraska.

It is the general policy of the District to provide for free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska constitution. The general policy of the District is to provide free instruction for courses that are required by the District, state law or regulation, and for which credits or grades apply, and to provide the staff, facilities, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to students.

The District does make available activities, programs and services to students that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutional required free instruction. Students and their parents have historically contributed to the District's efforts to provide such activities, programs, and services. The District's general policy is to continue to encourage to the extent permitted by law, such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational programs and experiences provided by the District. Under the Elementary and Secondary Student Fees Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth guidelines and policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following:

**Fees Authorized:** Except as provided otherwise herein, the District may collect fees or other funds from or on behalf of students, or request students to provide fees, supplies, specialized equipment, attire, or specialized materials:

1. For participation in extra-curricular activities.
2. For admission and transportation costs for spectators attending extra-curricular activities, including activity tickets for discounted admission to extra-curricular activities.
3. For post-secondary education costs.
4. For student transportation pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-241, 79-605, 79-611.
5. For copies of student records or files pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-2,104.
6. For reimbursement to the School District for property lost, damaged, or destroyed by student.
7. For before and after school or Pre-Kindergarten services offered pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-1104.
8. For Summer School or Night School.
9. For Breakfast, Lunch, and Milk programs.
10. For voluntary provision by students of specialized equipment and attire for select performance groups, including musical instruments for participation in extra-curricular activities.
11. For costs related to optional (non-credit or graded) trips, excursions, or activities.

### **Definitions and Guidelines**

**Extra-curricular Activities:** This means student activities or organizations that are supervised or administered by the District, but do not count toward graduation, credits, or advancement between grades, and in which participation is voluntary and not otherwise required by the School District.

**Postsecondary Education Costs:** This means tuition and other fees associated in obtaining credit for a postsecondary educational institution. For a course in which students receive both high school and postsecondary education credit, or a course being taken as part of the approved school curriculum or part of an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-1106, to

79- 1108.03, the course shall be offered without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees, except tuition or other fees associated with obtaining credits from the postsecondary institution.

**Extra fee for participation:** The District may enact and charge a minimal activity participation fee to students who participate in extra-curricular activities. The fees shall be used to offset the cost of equipment and replacement of necessary attire. Should such a fee be enacted, the District fee waiver policy shall be in effect for qualifying students and parents.

**Admissions to athletic events, activities, performances, etc.:** Students may be charged an admission fee for attendance at athletic events, performances, dances, and similar functions sponsored by schools that are optional and voluntary and that have no impact on any class or credits.

**Copies of student files or records:** Students shall be responsible for a reasonable cost, as established by the Superintendent, of copies of a student's transcripts, files, and records. A parent, guardian, or student requesting copies of records shall be responsible for the cost of reproduction or copying in accordance with such a fee schedule. The imposition of a fee shall not be used to prevent parents or students from their right to inspect and review a student's files or records, and no fee shall be charged to search for or retrieve any student's records. The fee schedule shall permit one copy of requested records or files to be provided without charge to the extent required by federal or state laws or regulations.

**Reimbursement for property lost or damaged, or for fines:** Students may be charged a fine, or for reimbursement for overdue library or similar materials, for excessive damage to school supplied materials, or for lost books or materials.

While the District will provide students with the use of facilities, equipment, materials, and supplies including books, the students are responsible for the appropriate and careful use of such property. Students and their parents will be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of school property which is placed in the care of and lost by the student.

When students are given school property of a significant value that may easily be damaged, parents will be given advance notice of student responsibility for the item and parents will be afforded an opportunity to ask that the student not be given the property.

**Penalties:** Students who fail to pay overdue student fees or fines may be subject to administrative penalties including but not limited to exclusion from graduation and commencement ceremonies or related activities, from participation in the prom, withholding of annual, participation in extra-curricular activities, etc. Students shall not be denied a diploma, transcript, or credit for course work for failure to pay overdue student fees or fines.

**Before and after school or Pre-Kindergarten services:** Students and their parents may be charged and are responsible for fees required for participation in before and after school programs sanctioned by the District if and when such charges are established. The District is not responsible for programs administered by other agencies, and charges for such programs are not subject to fee waivers.

**Participation in summer school or night school:** Students and their parents may be charged and are responsible for fees for participation in summer school or night school if and when such charges are established. Students are also responsible for correspondence courses, except those approved by the District as adopted curriculum or as approved for high school credit as part of an approved accelerated or differentiated program.

**School Stores:** School stores are allowed and may be established for purchases of food, beverages,

and personal items. A school store need not have a permanent, physical presence and may consist of providing order forms for students to voluntarily purchase items from the school or another vendor.

**Clothing required for specified courses or activities:** Students have the responsibility to furnish and wear non-specialized attire meeting general District dress and grooming requirements and guidelines, as well as grooming and attire guidelines established by the school, building, or programs attended by the student or in which students participate. Students also have the responsibility to furnish and wear non-specialized attire reasonably related to the program, courses and activities in which the students participate where the required attire is specified by the administrator or teacher responsible for the program, course, or activity. (Gym clothing, shoes suitable to the gymnasium etc.)

The District shall provide or make available to students such safety equipment and attire as may be required by law, specifically including appropriate industrial-quality eye protective devices for courses of instruction in vocational, technical, industrial arts, chemical or chemical related classes which involve exposure to hot molten metals, milling, sawing, turning, shaping, butting, grinding, or stamping of any solid materials, heat treatment, tempering, or kiln firing of any metal or other materials, gas or electric arc welding, or other forms of welding processes, repair or servicing of any vehicle, caustic or explosive materials, hot liquids or solids, injurious radiations, or other similar hazards. Building administrators are directed to assure that such equipment is available in appropriate classes and locations, that teachers are directed to instruct students in the usage of such devices and to assure that students use the devices as required, and students have the responsibility to follow such instructions and use the devices as instructed.

**Materials required for course projects:** Students may be asked to donate or furnish materials required for course projects, where, upon completion, the project becomes the property of the student or which represent materials beyond that provided by the school for completion of requirements. Provision of such materials is not required and the District shall supply adequate and sufficient materials for completion of any project required for credit or a grade. The District is not required to provide a particular grade or standard of materials.

**Musical Instruments:** Students may be required to provide musical instruments for participation in optional music courses or activities that are not curricular or extra-curricular activities. Students may have the option of using a school district musical instrument. If the student elects to use a school district instrument they will be assessed an instrument cleaning fee. The District is not required to provide a particular type of musical instrument for any student.

Elementary students at appropriate grade levels may be asked to provide or donate, but are not required to donate musical instruments (recorder or beginning band instrument, etc.) and consumable music or lesson books.

**iPad Damage Protection** Students will be required to purchase school provided damage protection if the student is in a school with a 1:1 iPad initiative and if the student wishes to take the iPad home. If an iPad is damaged the student will be responsible for 15% of the cost of repairing the iPad. No waiver shall apply for iPad damage protection or repair costs.

**Specialized Attire and Equipment:** The District will generally provide and furnish students with specialized equipment and attire (uniforms, football pads, helmets, etc.) for participation in extra-curricular activities. The District is not required to provide for a particular type of equipment or attire, or for attire or equipment beyond that designated as the standard "home and away" team uniforms. Team members, Boosters, Parents, or others may wish to offer for sale or seek to purchase and provide related attire or gear; however the School District neither sanctions or requires apparel beyond the standard uniform and shall bear no financial responsibility for these optional purchases. Students who

participate in extra- curricular activities and sports are expected to provide for their own appropriate athletic shoes, undergarments, mouthpieces where required, socks, towels, golf clubs, and gloves for golf, and softball. Students are expected to provide evidence of required insurance coverage. Students may be asked to provide for their own meals on out-of-town trips.

Students or parents who qualify under provision of the District waiver policy may apply for a waiver of any participation fees for the aforementioned items expected of students. Special attire, equipment, or uniforms provided by the District may be required to be returned to the District at the conclusion of the season or when the student is no longer participating in the sport or activity.

The District is not required to provide for special attire or equipment beyond the basic standard defined by the District, and shall not be required to provide a particular brand, style, or student preference.

**Vocal music and performance groups:** Students may be asked to provide or purchase special attire for performance groups, and may then keep the attire. Parents or students who qualify under provisions of the District waiver policy may apply for a waiver of the cost of such attire. Special attire or uniforms provided by the District may be required to be returned at the conclusion of the event, season, school year, or when the student is no longer involved in the activity. The District is not required to provide specialized attire beyond the one uniform or attire designated as the standard for the activity. Students, Parents, Boosters, or others may wish to provide for or offer for sale additional equipment, gear, or attire, but the District neither sanctions or requires attire beyond the standard and shall bear no financial responsibility for such.

**Cheerleaders, Flag Corps, Dance Teams, etc.:** Students may be asked to purchase or provide special attire for optional performance groups and then keep the attire. Parents and students who qualify under provisions of the District waiver policy may apply for a waiver of such costs. Special attire provided by the District may be required to be returned at the conclusion of the event, season, school year, or when the student is no longer involved in the activity.

The District is not required to provide for specialized attire beyond the one uniform or attire designated as standard for that group or activity. Students, parents, and Boosters may wish to provide for or offer for sale additional equipment or attire, but the District neither sanctions or requires attire beyond the standard uniform or attire and shall bear no financial responsibility for such.

**Student clubs and organizations:** Student clubs and organizations may expect students to pay dues, or to purchase optional shirts, etc. or participate in activities that require payment of admissions or fees. Students and parents who qualify under provisions of the District waiver policy may apply for a waiver from such participation fees, dues, or cost of required activities, shirts, etc. for school sanctioned clubs and organizations.

**Drivers Education:** Drivers education is an optional program offered by the District for the benefit of students and parents. A fee may be charged to offset the cost of Drivers Education during summer, or after-school night classes. No waiver shall apply to such driver's education costs.

**Graduation Expenses:** In order to participate in optional graduation or commencement activities or related activities, a cost may be incurred, including rental or purchase of caps and gowns that are required for participation in graduation exercises. Students and parents who qualify may apply for a waiver of the costs of graduation.

**Field Trips:** Approved Field Trips as per District Policy are considered extensions of classroom instruction. Parents and/or students may be asked to donate toward the cost of the trip, admissions related to the trips, etc., but are not required to do so.

**Optional testing:** Optional testing may be available or offered to students such as the PSAT, ACT, or similar tests related to college entrance or placement. These tests are optional and fees may be charged. No waiver shall apply to such testing costs.

**Optional Events or Activities and Activities by Outside Sponsors:** Students who choose to participate in optional events, activities, trips, or performances, that are sponsored by Booster Clubs, Parent groups, agencies, staff acting on their own and outside of school sanction, or people outside of the school system, may result in charges for fees, travel, admissions, meals, and other related expenses. It is the policy of the District that participation in such events or activities is optional and independent of the School District and District expectations or requirements. No school waiver of fees or charges shall apply for activities by outside sponsors. No District responsibility exists for sponsorship, funding, accounting, or liability for such activities.

**Fund raising:** Student members of groups or activities, parents, and boosters may be asked to participate in fund raising activities to offset the cost of special attire. If students are expected to, and volunteer to, participate in fund raising activities, any student participating shall be expected to participate equally and share equally in whatever funds are raised.

**Student Fees Fund:** The District shall establish a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate School District Fund into which all money collect from students and subject to the Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act shall be deposited and from which money shall be expended for the purposes for which it was collected from students. Funds subject to the Elementary and Secondary Student Fees Authorization Act consist of money collected from students for: (1) Postsecondary education costs, (2) Summer School or Night School.

**Waiver Policy:** It is the policy of the Lexington Public Schools to provide fees waivers in accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act. Students who qualify for free or reduced price school lunches under the United States Department of Agriculture Child Nutrition Programs shall upon request be provided a waiver for fees or costs, or be provided with necessary materials, equipment, or attire without charge as prescribed in adopted District policy. Participation in a free or reduced lunch program is not required to qualify for a waiver of fees. Students and their parents must request a fee waiver prior to participation in the activity for which the waiver is sought, and prior to purchase of materials, attire, or equipment.

**Distribution of Policy:** the Superintendent or designee shall provide access to the district’s student fees policy through the district student/parent/activity handbook and on the district’s website. The student/parent/activity handbook shall be provided to students electronically or in paper form, as requested by the parent, at no cost.

Annual public hearing and establishment of fees shall be conducted by the Board of Education and any changes or revisions made available as per policy provision.

**Lexington Public Schools Student Fees:**

<b>Program</b>	<b>General Description of Fee or Materials</b>	<b>Anticipate Cost</b>
Elementary School Supplies. Suggested and requested for parent donation. Not required.	Pencils, erasers, pens, glue, scissors, folders, notebooks, pencil box, markers, ruler, crayons, etc. Requested donations lists available from schools.	ELA - \$25 Kindergarten - \$25 Grade one - \$35 Grade two - \$35 Grade three- \$45 Grade four - \$45 Grade five - \$50
Middle School Supplies,	Pencils, pens, erasers, glue, scissors,	Grade six- \$60

Suggested and requested for parent donation. Not required	folders, notebooks, calculator, ruler, markers, highlighter, colored pencils, compass, paper, protractor, P.E. Shirt*, student agenda*, Requested donation lists available from school. (*may be purchased at school	Grade seven- \$60 Grade eight - \$60
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Recorders	\$7 - \$15
5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Band Books PE athletic shoes with rubber soles Flash drive Ear buds	\$10 \$25 \$10 \$10
	Admissions fees for school dances including homecoming and prom.	\$3-30
High School supplies. Suggested and requested for parent donation. Not required Estimated expenses waiver applies	Pencils, pens, notebooks, calculator (depends on class), P.E. clothing, binders, etc. Requested donation lists available from school.	Grades 9-12 - \$150
	Senior Trip	\$700
	Athletic Shoes or specialized equipment of garments for each sport or activity	\$300
	Special attire for performance groups related to classes	\$400
	Graduation and related expenses	\$200
	Field Trips	\$15
	Clubs, dues, shirts, for each Club	\$50
	Reproduction of student records or files	One copy annually – no additional. \$.10 per page for black copy, \$1.00 per page for color copy
	Overdue library materials	\$.05 per day with a \$5.00 maximum fee. Overdue reserved materials \$.24 per hour after 10:00 AM
	Copies for student use	\$.25 per page color copy; \$.05 for black and white
	Post-secondary tuition or costs	As established by the school or college to be paid directly to the college, not to exceed \$1000.00 per course.
	Summer or night school	\$150.00 per course
	Elementary Lunch	\$1.70 daily
	Secondary Lunch	\$1.90 daily
	Elementary Breakfast	\$1.00 daily
	Secondary Breakfast	\$1.10 daily
	Reduced Lunch	\$.40 daily
	Reduced Breakfast	\$.30 daily
	Extra Milk	\$.50/carton
	Students may be asked to periodically donate one or two boxes of Kleenex or similar tissues. Not required.	
	iPad damage fee for 1 to 1 initiative	\$25
	Insurance co-pay for damaged computers	15% of damage
	Instrument Cleaning Fee	\$40
	Replacement of ID cards, lanyards, and/or holders	Maximum charge of \$8.00

	Graduation expenses related to Commencement exercises (cap, gown, tassel, etc. Does not include pictures, invitations, announcement, etc.)	\$50
	Driver's Education-Lexington Student	\$330
	Driver's Education-Non-Lexington Student	\$330
<b>Fees That May be Charged</b>	Replacement of lost or damaged books or equipment	Actual cost depreciated proportionate to the anticipated life of the item. Damage due to vandalism or malicious destruction of property at full replacement cost.

Adopted on: August 12, 2013

Revised on: August 11, 2014

Revised on: June 8, 2015

Reviewed and affirmed on: August 14, 2017

Reviewed and affirmed on: July 9, 2018

Reviewed and affirmed on: July 8, 2019

Revised on: November 11, 2019

Revised on: July 12, 2021

Reviewed and affirmed on: July 11, 2022

Reviewed and revised on: July 10, 2023