

STUDENT FEES

Districts must remember that there are limited options when charging student fees, and legal guidelines are in place regarding items for which fees can be charged. Before assessing or charging a fee or deposit of any kind, the district must ensure that it is legal.

A student may not be charged fees for the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A deposit for lost or damaged school property (replacement cost may be charged). 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An admission charge to an exhibit, fair, theater or similar activity for instruction or extracurricular purposes when a visit to such places is part of the district's educational program. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tuition fee or charge as a condition to enrollment in any class or course of instruction, including a fee for attendance in a summer or vacation school, a registration fee, a fee for a catalog of courses, a fee for an examination in a subject, a late registration or program change fee, a fee for the issuance of a diploma or certificate, or a charge for lodging. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A school district may not charge a fee or require students to purchase necessary materials even if the district maintains a special fund to assist students with financial need or waives such a fee or charge for students with financial need, because the fee or charge still remains a condition for all other students not being assisted financially. Thus it is not permissible for a class to have a project that students will be graded on, but then offer an additional project that can be done if fees are paid for the materials and/or supplies for the additional project. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student body member fee as a condition for enrollment or participation in athletic or other curricular or extracurricular activities sponsored by the school. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An apprentice, or his or her parents or guardian, for admission or attendance in any class. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For textbooks and workbooks. These must be furnished without charge by elementary and high school districts except for classes for adults. A charge may not be made for their use. 	Ed Code 60070 and 60411
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For school supplies that are necessary for participation in the class. This includes paper, pencils, pens, crayons, art supplies, cloth for dressmaking classes, wood for carpentry, etc. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For standardized clothing or uniforms, when not wearing the standardized clothes would affect the student's grade. This includes band uniforms. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If pupils are required to ride a bus for extracurricular activities, then fees cannot be charged. But if riding the school bus to an event is optional and pupils are also allowed to use other means of transportation, then a fee can be imposed. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees for extra coaches or instructors for an extracurricular program. 	

PLEASE NOTE: Offering of waivers for financial hardship does not make any of the above items a legally chargeable fee.

A student may be charged for the following:

		Deposit Account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fabricated items that exceed course requirement in quantity or material and are intended to be taken home for their own use. These fees may not exceed the direct cost of the materials used. 	Ed Code 17551	District Account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food served to them. 	Ed Code 38084	District Account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lost or damaged books or other school property. A student may be charged for damage of personal property loaned to a pupil where he or she willfully cuts, defaces, or otherwise injures the property as a result of pupil misconduct. When the minor and parent are unable to pay for the damages or to return the property, the school district shall provide a program of voluntary work for the minor in lieu of payment of monetary damages. 	Ed Code 48904	District Account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field trips or excursions, principally for transportation. However, no student can be prevented from making a field trip or excursion do to lack of sufficient funds, nor may a student be left behind for failing or refusing to participate in fund-raisers. 	Ed Code 35330 and 35331	District Account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical, hospital or accident insurance for students participated in field trips. 	Ed Code 51815	District Account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community service classes, not to exceed the cost of maintain such classes. 	Ed Code 51815	District Account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cost of insurance for participation on an athletic team, unless the student is unable to pay for such insurance. 	Ed Code 32220-32224	District Account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A deposit for school band instruments, music, uniforms and other regalia <u>for use on an excursion to a foreign country.</u> 	Ed Code 38120	District Account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A tuition fee if their parents are actual and legal residents of an adjacent foreign country or an adjacent state. 	Ed Code 48050 and 48052	District Account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A school camp program fee, if payment of such a fee is not mandatory. No pupil shall be denied the opportunity to participate in a school camp program because of nonpayment of the fee. 	Ed Code 35335	District or Home and School Club
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An adult student may be charged a tuition fee for any class except classes in English and citizenship for foreigners, classes in elementary subjects, and classes for which high school credit is granted when taken by a person not holding a high school diploma. 	Ed Code 52612	District Account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An adult student may be charged for textbooks used in classes for adults or a refundable deposit on loaned books. 	Ed Code 60410	District Account

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A family may be charged for utilizing child care and development services, but no fees shall be assessed against families whose children are enrolled in the state preschool program, or for such services provided to severely handicapped children. 	Ed Code 8263 (e), (f) and 8250 (d)	District Account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A family may be charged for a program of supervision of children before and after school. 	Ed Code 8487 and 8486	District Account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A family who chooses to participate may be charged a fee for fingerprinting program for children in kindergarten or newly enrolled children. 	Ed Code 32390	District Account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A family may be charged a fee for home-to-school transportation provided to their children by the district. However, no fees may be charged to children of indigent parents, nor fees be charged for children whose special education Individualized Education Program (IEP) required special education transportation. 	Ed Code 39807.5	District Account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For activities that are strictly recreational, such as school dances, senior trips, yearbook purchases, admission to athletic events, trips to entertainment venues when they are not part of the curriculum. 		District Account