

Special Hearing for Policy 504.18 School Fees

Mission: "Engaging All Learners to Achieve Success"

The Special Hearing for Policy 504.18 School Fees started at 5:30 PM on Monday, February 17, 2025. The meeting was held at Kramer Education Center
2410 16th Street, Suite A
Columbus, NE 68601

Candace Becher: Present

Michael Jeffryes: Present

Doug Molczyk: Present

Theresa Seipel: Present

Douglas Willoughby: Present

Marv Zoucha: Present

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD
- III. EXCUSE BOARD MEMBERS
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- V. NOTICE OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

V.A. President ensures all can hear proceedings

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

VII.A. Discuss Policy 504.18 Student Fees

Student fees were discussed. Dr. Kay shared information on the policy and the regulation. He said the policy includes what fees qualify under the regulation.

VIII. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn Passed with a motion by Theresa Seipel and a second by Douglas Willoughby.

Candace Becher: Yea, Michael Jeffryes: Yea, Doug Molczyk: Yea, Theresa Seipel: Yea, Douglas Willoughby: Yea, Marv Zoucha: Yea

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified Secretary for the School District No. 1 of Columbus, Nebraska, certify that the preceding is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting of Monday, February 17, 2025.

President

Secretary

STUDENT FEES

The Board realizes some activities may require additional expenditures which are properly to be borne by students as a separate charge. Such charges may be waived as specified below depending upon the student's eligibility for the free and reduced-price lunch program. In other special cases where the parent/guardian requests that the student be exempted from charges, the superintendent shall determine granting of waivers. No fees, specialized or nonspecialized attire or equipment shall be required of students outside this policy. This policy does not apply to tuition payments by nonresident students.

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

1. Extracurricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the school district, which do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades, and in which participation is not otherwise required by the school district;
2. Postsecondary education costs means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a postsecondary educational institution.

The district may charge student fees or require students to provide specialized equipment or attire in the following areas:

1. Participation in extracurricular activities, including extracurricular music courses;
2. Admission fees and transportation charges for spectators attending extracurricular activities;
3. Postsecondary education costs, limited to tuition and fees associated with obtaining credits from the postsecondary institution;
4. Transportation fees for option students not qualifying for free lunches and nonresident students as allowed by state statute;
5. Copies of student files or records as allowed by state statute;
6. Reimbursement to the district for property lost or damaged by the student;
7. Before-and-after-school or prekindergarten services in accordance with state statute;
8. Summer school or night school; and
9. Breakfast and lunch programs.

The district may also require students to furnish musical instruments for participation in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunches shall be provided with a musical instrument of the school's choice.

Waivers shall be provided to students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches for fees, specialized equipment and specialized attire required for participation in extracurricular activities.

The superintendent shall establish a Student Fee Fund and ensure that funds collected as fees for the following purposes are properly recorded and deposited to it:

79-734 (books, equipment and supplies)
79-2,104 (student files)
79-2,125 to 2,134 (student fees law)
79-1104 (before-and-after-school services)
79-1106 to 1108 (learners with high ability)

Cross Reference: 505.05 Fines for Lost or Damaged Items
506 Student Activities
507.01 Student Records Access
801 Transportation
802.05 Free or Reduced Cost Meals Eligibility
1005.01 Public Complaints

Policy
Adopted: 7/21/14

COLUMBUS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Columbus, Nebraska
Reviewed: 7/21/14

Columbus Middle School Student Fees List

Grades 5-8

School Fees

The following activities may have fees associated with them. They should be paid in advance. Students/families that qualify for free or reduced lunch may have the fees waived by completing a waiver request form at the start of the course/activity.

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| Math Counts | \$0 - \$20 |
| Destination Imagination | \$0 - \$20 |
| Sing Around Nebraska Festival Choir | \$0 - \$20 |
| UNO Middle School Honor Choir | \$0 - \$20 |
| Wayne State Honor Festival Choir | \$0 - \$10 |
| History Day | \$0 - \$10 |
| Quiz Bowl | \$0 - \$10 |
| Duke Talent Identification Program | \$0 - \$10 |
| Nebraska Scholars Academy | \$0 - \$10 |
| Platte County Spelling Bee | \$0 - \$10 |
| Geography Bee | \$0 - \$10 |
| Nebraska Scholastic Art Comp./Display | \$0 - \$20 |
| Intramural Volleyball | \$0 - \$10 |
| Intramural Flag Football | \$0 - \$10 |
| Intramural Basketball | \$0 - \$10 |
| Intramural Wrestling | \$0 - \$10 |
| Football | \$40 |
| Wrestling | \$40 |
| Basketball | \$40 |
| Track | \$40 |
| Leadership / Yearbook | \$0 - \$20 |
| Band | \$20 (Instrument Rental \$100) |
| Vocal Music | \$0 - \$20 |
| Cheerleading | \$0 - \$200 Varies with uniform pieces |
| Drumline | \$30 - \$50 |

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| Robotics | \$0 - \$30 |
| Musical | \$0 - \$50 |
| Play | \$0 - \$30 |
| 5th Grade | \$5 |
| 6th Grade | \$5 |
| 7th Grade | \$5 |
| 8th Grade | \$5 |

Athletic Physicals

The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) requires that students involved in Athletics are required to have an annual physical.

Activity Stamp

Any student may purchase an activity stamp for \$40.00. The Activity Stamp allows students to attend all CHS and CMS home games, plays, and musicals. The Activity Stamp is not valid at NSAA sponsored activities. (district and state tournaments) Students that qualify for free or reduced meals and participate in activities may receive an activity stamp to all CHS/CMS home events. Students may purchase the activity stamp in the office.

**Columbus High School
Grades 9-12 Student Fees
2024-25**

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| Class Fees | <p>Each fall with the start of a new school year as part of grade level orientation, students will be charged a class fee as shown below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Class fees for Grades 9 and 10 are \$5.00 ● Class fees for Grade 11 are \$7.00 ● Class fees for Grade 12 are \$10.00 <p>Class fees defray the costs associated with student incentives, class pages in the yearbook for all grades; PROM for juniors and seniors; and graduation for seniors.</p> |
| Technology Damage Protection Plan | <p>It is highly recommended that a student purchase the technology damage protection plan at an annual cost of \$25.00. With the purchase of the plan, the district will cover 85% of costs per claim with the student being responsible for 15%.</p> |
| Athletic Physicals | <p>The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) requires that all students involved in athletics be required to have an annual physical paid for by the student.</p> |
| Activity Stamp | <p>Any student may annually purchase an activity stamp for \$40.00. The activity stamp is good for admission to all CHS-sponsored home activity events including plays and musicals. The activity stamp is not valid at NSAA-sponsored activities including district and state competitions. Students qualifying for free and reduced meals may receive an activity stamp at a reduced cost or no charge.</p> |
| Individual Class Fees | |
| Advanced 2D, 3D and Advanced Art | \$12.00 for student art creations |
| Art Exploration, Art Techniques | \$8.00 for student art creations |
| 3D Media, 2D Media, Graphic Design | \$10.00 for student art creations |
| Choir | Appropriate personal attire for performances |
| Concert Band - Fall and Spring | \$10.00 and includes an ensemble method book |
| Dual Credit Courses | To receive college credit students must pay for tuition and fees through CCC, Nebraska Wesleyan, or Wayne State College. |
| Engineering Concepts | Up to \$7.00 depending on student-initiated projects |
| Guitar | \$10.00 for replacement strings, picks, and tuners |
| Introduction to Manufacturing Woods | Up to \$50.00 depending on student-initiated projects |

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| Linkages | Up to \$20.00 depending on student-initiated projects |
| Manufacturing Welding | Fee will vary and are determined by the student-initiated project |
| Marching Band | \$55.00 plus an instrument and does not include shoes and gloves |
| Marching Band Cadet | \$35.00 plus an instrument and does not include shoes and gloves |
| Manufacturing Woods | Fee will vary and are determined by the student-initiated project |
| Manufacturing Processes | Up to \$60.00 depending on student-initiated projects |
| Percussion | \$300 and includes instrument usage fee, consumable materials, sticks and mallets, and camp fees. This does not include the marching fee. |
| Photography | \$10.00 for student photography items |
| Symphonic Band | \$10.00 and includes an ensemble method book |
| School Fees | |
| All Activities | \$40.00 C-Stamp/Meals on Trips |
| All NSAA Athletic Teams | Shoes, personal attire, and specialty equipment |
| Cheerleading | Personalized uniform up to \$1200 |
| Color Guard | \$300 personalized uniform and equipment |
| Dance Team | Personalized uniform up to \$1200 |
| Destination Imagination | Costs will vary depending on competitions |
| FBLA | \$15.00 Membership dues, conference expenses |
| FCCLA | \$20.00 Membership dues, conference expenses |
| HOSA | \$15.00 Entry fees for individual competitions |
| Intramurals | \$5.00 |
| Mock Trial | Appropriate personal attire for competitions |
| National Honor Society | \$10.00 Membership dues |
| Robotics | Costs will vary depending on competitions |
| SkillsUSA | \$15.00 Membership dues, conference expenses |
| Tri-M | \$30.00 Membership dues |
| Other Items | Purchases that include yearbooks, class rings, letter jackets and other similar personal effects are sold to students as a convenience which are not fees and do not fall under the |

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| | guidelines of the fees policy. Fines for overdue books, school parking violations, and restitution for damage to property that is deemed to be a violation of school rules, regulations and policies established for the safe and efficient operation of the school and thus do not fall under the Student Fee Policy 504.18R1 |
| Graduation Caps and Gowns | To participate in the graduation ceremony, students are required to purchase a cap and gown. Participation in the ceremony is optional and thus costs do not fall under the Student Fee Policy 504.18R1 |
| Fund Raising | Students may do fundraising activities while participating in an extracurricular activity. Fundraising is done to offset expenses incurred by the student as members of the activity. Depending on the activity and cost, groups may request to complete additional fundraisers to defray costs. |

STUDENT FEES REGULATION

The Board of Education of Columbus Public Schools adopts the following student fees policy in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act.

The District's general policy is to provide for the free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution and state and federal law. This generally means that the District's policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff, facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students.

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children, which extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally 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 and, to the extent permitted by law, to require such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines and policies. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations, which may be adopted from time to time. The Policy includes Appendix "1," which provides further specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the **2024-2025** school year. Parents, guardians, and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

(1) Guidelines for non-specialized attire required for specified courses and activities. Students have the responsibility to furnish and wear non-specialized attire meeting general District grooming and attire guidelines, as well as grooming and attire guidelines established for the building or programs attended by the students or in which the students participate. Students also have the responsibility to furnish and wear non-specialized attire reasonably related to the programs, courses and activities in which the students participate where the required attire is specified in writing by the administrator or teacher responsible for the program, course or activity.

The District will 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-physical classes which involve exposure to hot molten metals or other molten materials, milling, sawing, turning, shaping, cutting, 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, or caustic or explosive materials, or for laboratory classes involving 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 the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, 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.

(2) Personal or consumable items & miscellaneous

(a) Extracurricular Activities. Students have the responsibility to furnish any personal or consumable items for participation in extracurricular activities.

(b) Courses

(i) General Course Materials. Items necessary for students to benefit from, courses will be made available by the District for the use of students during the school day. Students may be encouraged, but not required, to bring items needed to benefit from courses including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers, notebooks, trappers, protractors and math calculators. A specific class supply list will be published annually in a Board-approved student handbook or supplement or other notice. The list may include refundable damage or loss deposits required for usage of certain District property.

(ii) Damaged or Lost Items. Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of school property. Students and their parents or guardian will be held responsible for damages to school property where such damage is caused or aided by the student and will also be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of school property which is placed in the care of and lost by the student.

(iii) Materials Required for Course Materials. Students are permitted to and may be encouraged to supply materials for course projects. Some course projects (such as projects in art and shop classes) may be kept by the student upon completion. In the event the completed project has more than minimal value, the student may be required, as a condition of the student keeping the completed project, to reimburse the District for the reasonable value of the materials used in the project. Standard project materials will be made available by the District. If a student wants to create a project other than the standard course project, or to use materials other than standard project materials, the student will be responsible for furnishing or paying the reasonable cost of any such materials for the project.

(iv) Music Course Materials. Students will be required to furnish musical instruments for participation in optional music courses. Use of a musical instrument without charge is available under the District's fee waiver policy. The District is not required to provide for the use of a particular type of musical instrument for any student.

(v) Parking. Students may be required to pay for parking on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities, and may be subject payment of fines or damages for damages caused with or to vehicles or for failure to comply with school parking rules.

(3) Extracurricular Activities–Specialized equipment or attire. Extracurricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the District, which do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades, and in which participation is not otherwise required by the District. The District will generally furnish students with specialized equipment and attire for participation in extracurricular activities. The District is not required to provide for the use of any particular type of equipment or attire. Equipment or attire fitted for the student and which the student generally wears exclusively, such

as dance squad, cheerleading, and music/dance activity (e.g. choir or show choir) uniforms and outfits, along with T-shirts for teams or band members, will be required to be provided by the participating student. The cost of maintaining any equipment or attire, including uniforms, which the student purchases or uses exclusively, shall be the responsibility of the participating student. Equipment which is ordinarily exclusively used by an individual student participant throughout the year, such as golf clubs, softball gloves, and the like, are required to be provided by the student participant. Items for the personal medical use or enhancement of the student (braces, mouth pieces, and the like) are the responsibility of the student participant. Students have the responsibility to furnish personal or consumable equipment or attire for participation in extra curricular activities or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire. For musical extracurricular activities, students may be required to provide specialized equipment, such as musical instruments, or specialized attire, or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire.

(4) Extracurricular Activities—Fees for participation. Any fees for participation in extracurricular activities for the **2024-2025** school year are further specified in Appendix “1.” Admission fees are charged for extracurricular activities and events.

(5) Postsecondary education costs. Students are responsible for postsecondary education costs. The phrase “postsecondary education costs” means tuition and other fees only associated with obtaining credit from a postsecondary educational institution. For a course in which students receive high school credit and for which the student may also receive postsecondary education credit, the course shall be offered without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees, except tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credits from a postsecondary educational institution.

(6) Transportation costs. Students are responsible for fees established for transportation services provided by the District as and to the extent permitted by federal and state laws and regulations.

(7) Copies of student files or records. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of fees representing a reasonable cost of reproduction for copies of a student's files or records for the parents or guardians of such student. A parent, guardian or student who requests copies of files or records shall be responsible for the cost of copies reproduced in accordance with such fee schedule. The imposition of a fee shall not be used to prevent parents of students from exercising their right to inspect and review the students' files or records and no fee shall be charged to search for or retrieve any student's files or records. The fee schedule shall permit one copy of the requested records be provided for or on behalf of the student without charge and shall allow duplicate copies to be provided without charge to the extent required by federal or state laws or regulations.

(8) Participation in before-and-after-school or pre-kindergarten services. Students are responsible for fees required for participation in before-and-after-school or pre-kindergarten services offered by the District, except to the extent such services are required to be provided without cost.

(9) Participation in summer school. Students are responsible for fees required for participation in summer school K-12. The fee is \$50.00 per course or session.

(10) Breakfast and lunch programs. Students shall be responsible for items which students purchase from the District's breakfast and lunch programs. The cost of items to be sold to students shall be consistent with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Students

are also responsible for the cost of food, beverages, and personal or consumable items which the students purchase from the District or at school, whether from a “school store,” a vending machine, a booster club or parent group sale, a book order club, or the like. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

(11) Waiver Policy. The District’s policy is to provide fee waivers in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities and (2) use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Participation in a free-lunch program or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for free or reduced-price lunches for purposes of this section. Students or their parents must request a fee waiver prior to participating in or attending the activity, and prior to purchase of the materials.

(12) Distribution of Policy. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall publish the District's student fee policy in the Student Handbook or the equivalent (for example, publication may be made in an addendum or a supplement to the student handbook). The Student Handbook or the equivalent shall be provided to every student of the District or to every household in which at least one student resides, at no cost.

(13) Student Fee Fund. The School Board hereby establishes a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate school district fund not funded by tax revenue, into which all money collected from students and subject to the Student Fee Fund shall be deposited and from which money shall be expended for the purposes for which it was collected from students. Funds subject to the Student Fee Fund consist of money collected from students for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) postsecondary education costs, and (3) summer school or night school.

CERTIFICATION

On the 12 day of August, 2024, the school board held a public hearing at a meeting of the school board on a proposed student fee policy. Such public hearing followed a review of the amount of money collected from students pursuant to, and the use of waivers provided in, the student fee policy for the **2024-2025** school year. The foregoing student fee policy was adopted after such public hearing by a majority vote of the school board at an open public meeting in compliance with the public meetings laws.

Superintendent or Other Authorized School Official

Legal References:

- Neb. Rev. Stat. §§79-2,125 to 79-2,135 and Laws 2003, LB 249 (The Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act)
- Neb. Constitution, Article VII, section 1.
- Neb. Rev. Stat. §§79-241, 79-605, and 79-611(transportation)
- Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-2,104 (student files or records)
- Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-715 (eye-protective devices)
- Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-737 (liability of students for damages to school books)
- Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-1104 (before-and-after-school or pre-kindergarten services)
- Neb. Rev. Stat. §§79-1106 to 79-1108.03 (accelerated or differentiated curriculum program)

Policy Adopted: 6/10/02
Policy Revised: 7/29/02
Policy Revised: 7/14/03
Policy Revised: 7/07/04
Policy Revised: 7/11/05
Regulation Adopted: 7/10/06
Regulation Revised: 7/9/07
Regulation Revised: 7/13/09
Regulation Revised: 7/12/10
Regulation Revised: 7/11/11
Regulation Revised: 7/16/12
Regulation Revised: 7/15/13
Regulation Revised: 7/21/14

COLUMBUS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Columbus, Nebraska
Reviewed: 7/21/14
Reviewed: 8/12/24