

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board (KPDSB) that qualified resident pupils attending the Board's schools shall not be required to pay any fees in respect of their participation in day school programs. However, where schools choose to offer optional enhancements or learning materials beyond the core curriculum, fees may be appropriate. Where fees are appropriate, they should be minimized as much as possible, with the goal of supporting student participation in programs and activities regardless of individual economic circumstances.

Rationale

The Education Act provides that every qualified resident pupil has the right to attend a school without the payment of a fee. Funding for the costs of materials and activities for elementary and secondary education is provided to school boards by the Ministry of Education and should be reflected in school board operating budgets. When schools or school boards choose with the support of the school community to offer enhanced or optional programming, parents/guardians may be asked to contribute resources in the way of time, money, or materials to support these programs or activities.

Guidelines

1. The Director of Education, or Designate, is responsible for establishing procedures to ensure that fees for learning materials and activities at the Board's schools are determined and administered in accordance with this policy.
2. Students must be able to participate in school activities and access resources regardless of personal financial barriers.
3. Fees charged for school purposes are to complement, and not replace, public funding for education.
4. All reasonable expectations for privacy of students and parents/guardians will be respected during the student fee collection process, and those who may be experiencing financial difficulty will be managed in a discreet manner.



Policy Section: **Business and Administrative Measures**

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Policy Name: **Fees for Learning Materials And Activities**

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5. Fees should reflect the actual cost of the service or materials provided to the student, and in all possible cases, should be modest and within certain limits. There should be no material profit element or subsidy in the fees that are charged to students. Funds for assisting students with financial hardships should come from general fundraising or the school's budget.
6. Successful completion of a required grade or course leading to graduation cannot be dependent on the payment of any course fee.
7. Members of the school community should be consulted in the development of a school's fee schedule (i.e., through School Council, etc.) and made aware of the use of student fees.
8. Fee schedules should include an itemized list of fees that states the rationale and purpose of each fee, and information about the process to confidentially address financial hardship.
9. Financial reports will be maintained and made available to the school community.