

West Ada Course Fee Guidelines



Contents

West Ada Guidelines for Student Fees

<i>Classroom Supplies, Course Fees, Class Dues, Musical Instruments</i>	2-3
<i>Co-Curricular Courses, Field Trips, Online Courses</i>	3-4
<i>Waiver of Fees, Damage or Loss of School Property, Extracurricular Activity Fees, Charges for Transcripts</i>	4-6
<i>Summary of Prohibited & Allowable Fees</i>	6-7

Classroom supplies

Authority:

Paulson v. Minidoka
Joki v. Meridian School District
1986 State of Idaho: Guidelines for Charges of Student Fees

The student may be required to furnish paper and pencils, and other items which are consumed on an **individual** basis, if the **quality** and **quantity** of such items are not prescribed.

Can a teacher ask for donations for their specific classroom? No, this was deemed a fee since students may feel an obligation to provide it.

Can parents donate to a specific classroom or teacher? Yes, they may do so through the West Ada Foundation but there can be no solicitation from the teacher.

Can a school provide parents with a preferred donation list? Yes, since this deals with the school in its entirety and is not focused on a single classroom, teacher, or student.

Course Fees

Authority:

Paulson v. Minidoka
Joki v. Meridian School District
1986 State of Idaho: Guidelines for Charges of Student Fees

Where a class is offered as part of the regular academic course, the class **must be offered without charge**. The best determinate of whether a class is part of the regular academic course is whether academic credit toward graduation is granted for the class. No fees will be charged for consumable materials required by the course, such as art, culinary art, etc. A fee waiver for students not able to pay the fee does not make a student fee permissible and is prohibited.

If students, by choice, go beyond the requirements of a course, they may be charged for additional materials and reimburse the school district for the extra materials utilized.

Example: If the project requirement is to build a birdhouse, all supplies must be provided by the school. If a student chooses on their own to build several birdhouses, the extra cost of the additional birdhouses can be charged to the student.

Class Dues

Authority:

Joki v. Meridian School District

The Court ruled that the junior class dues fall in a category “generally imposed on all students whether they participate in extra-curricular activities or not, which becomes a charge on attendance at the school.” The Court ruled: “As such, they are **impermissible**.”

Musical Instruments

Authority:

1986 State of Idaho: Guidelines for Charges of Student Fees

For reasons of personal health and safety, students may choose to furnish their own equipment for music courses.

Specific Dress Requirements for Performing Ensembles

Authority:

Joki v. Meridian School District

Directors may set a minimum expectation for student dress (e.g. white shirt and dark pants), so long as the cost is minimal to the family. Those that cannot meet this minimum standard shall not have their grades negatively impacted and still be allowed to perform. Normal dress code expectations are still reasonable to maintain.

Co-Curricular Courses

Authority:

Paulson v. Minidoka

Joki v. Meridian School District

1986 State of Idaho: Guidelines for Charges of Student Fees

A co-curricular course will be offered without fees so long as it is part of the regular academic course and academic credit toward graduation is granted for the class. Students may choose to accompany a co-curricular class on extra-curricular events for performances and/or competitions but are not required to do so. A fee may be assessed for travel and/or necessary attire for the extra-curricular events.

Field Trips

Authority:

Paulson v. Minidoka

Joki v. Meridian School District

1986 State of Idaho: Guidelines for Charges of Student Fees

All field trips are considered educational activities that are part of this school district's educational program. As such, **no fees** may be assessed in order to participate in field trips.

Specific Activity Trips

Authority:

Joki v. Meridian School District

An activity or group may fundraise for a trip, so long as the inability to pay for the trip after the fundraising is over does not impact the student's grade or ability to participate. If a minimum of funds is not raised by an individual, the program pays the balance.

Online Classes

Authority:

Paulson v. Minidoka
Joki v. Meridian School District
Idaho Code Section 33-5505(3)
Idaho Code Section 33-5508

The district will pay the course fee for each student enrolled in an Online Class if the course is part of the student's full-time enrollment. The district may require a student to pay a course fee if a student enrolls in additional courses beyond full-time enrollment, or a student elects to participate in summer school courses.

The district may make students/parents responsible for any fees charged by colleges or universities to receive college credit for dual credit courses. Additionally, the district may make students/parents responsible for any fees that may be charged by the College Board to take an advanced placement exam. In the event advanced placement and dual credit courses require additional textbooks and/or course materials, the student/parent may be responsible for payment for those additional textbooks and/or course materials.

Damage or Loss of School Property (Fines)

Authority:

Idaho Code 33-603
1986 State of Idaho: Guidelines for Charges of Student Fees

Students may be charged for extraordinary wear and tear, damage, breakage, or loss of school-issued materials.

33-603. PAYMENT OF FEES OR RETURNING OF PROPERTY. The board of trustees of each school district shall have the power and the ability to require as a condition of graduation, as a condition of issuance of a diploma or certificate, or as a condition for issuance of a transcript, that any or all indebtedness incurred by the person when he was a student be satisfied, or that all books or other instructional material, uniforms, athletic equipment, advances on loans, or other personal property of the school district borrowed by the person when he was a student of the district be returned. Provided, the board of trustees of a school district or its designated employees may excuse the requirements of this section upon an adequate showing of financial need or other exigency and shall not delay transfer of school records to another school district or enrollment of the student in any other school.

Extracurricular Activity Fees

Authority:

Paulson v. Minidoka
Joki v. Meridian School District
1986 State of Idaho: Guidelines for Charges of Student Fees
Idaho Code 33-512(12)

Extracurricular activities are not part of the regular academic courses or curriculum, are not considered a property, liberty or contract right of any student, and are considered to be a privilege. As such, students may be charged for all extracurricular activities in which they voluntarily participate.

In elementary schools, where band and orchestra are offered as extracurricular, the school may rent instruments to students, so long as the money accrued is directly used for repair and maintenance of the instrument and the amount is reasonable in comparison to vendors outside of the district.

Charging for Entry into an Event

Authority:

Joki v. Meridian School District

Programs and activities may charge a reasonable entry fee for parents to view performances, so long as the student's grades are not negatively impacted by either the lack of people attending or inability to pay the entry. Copyright infringement is also a consideration, directors must ensure that they have the rights to the music performed if they are charging entry.

Charges for Transcripts

Authority:

1986 State of Idaho: Guidelines for Charges of Student Fees

The average cost for duplication and issuance of transcripts may be charged after issuance of one free transcript.

Prohibited Fees

- Registration fees
- Involuntary grade-level fees
- Involuntary extracurricular fees
- General class fees for any class, regardless whether elective or core class
- Class fees for consumables utilized as part of instruction
- Field trips
- Online courses that are part of a student's full-time enrollment

Allowable Fees

- Online courses taken beyond full-time enrollment or during summer
- Fees for college courses
- Advanced placement exams
- Reasonable cost of transcript after one initial free transcript
- Cost for damage or loss of school property, which would be assessed by a fine.
- Fees for voluntary participation in extracurricular activities
- Extracurricular fees for voluntary participation in co-curricular classes
- Reimbursement for use of consumables in excess of course requirement
- Reimbursement for the direct cost of materials provided to a student for item(s) fabricated from the materials for the student's own possession and use, such as art, ceramics, etc. in excess of any course requirement
- Voluntary attendance as a spectator at a school or district-sponsored activity
- School meals, subject to free and reduced-price meal program eligibility
- Student parking on school grounds