



Department: Programs and Services
Section: Programs

The AVRSB believes that public schooling should be “free” as established under the Education Act of Nova Scotia. The board stipulates that “free” is to mean that students are not charged tuition and that the AVRSB has the responsibility to provide materials, facilities, staffing, support services and transportation for eligible students served by its schools.

However, because the AVRSB believes that students will benefit when additional funds are collected through fees to enhance or enrich the basic mandatory requirements of the Public School Program, the AVRSB deems it appropriate for schools to charge student user fees for such enrichment/enhancement provided such fees are

- fair,
- reasonable,
- used directly to defray the costs for the purposes cited, and
- an accurate reflection of the costs of the materials, services or activities.
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Within these conditions, the AVRSB acknowledges that it may be appropriate for schools to charge student user fees; consequently, it permits schools the option to:

- charge fees for any activity or event which is optional for students and not part of the required Public School Program,
- combine fees/costs for a number of materials, services or activities into a single fee as a payment convenience for school, student, and families, and
- charge user fees or rental costs for items or services which have been purchased from the school-based funds.

Because of the economies of large scale ordering and the need to have uniform and equitable supplies, and because there are circumstances when it is more cost effective and efficient for schools to bulk purchase and charge students/families the appropriate fees the AVRSB permits schools to

- charge (or consolidate into a single fee) costs for materials, supplies or consumable items which are normally purchased by families and/or students
- as the usual operational requirements of the class or program (e.g. school supplies such as pens, pencils, scribblers math equipment; lab consumables or books, art supplies, and the like),
- in circumstances where schools are engaged bulk purchasing they are required to comply with AVRSB BP/AP 200.1 – Tendering/Purchasing.

Because the AVRSB believes that public schooling should be “free” as established under the Education Act of Nova Scotia, the Board:

- does **not** permit schools to ask students or parents to pay for an activity or event which is considered to be a mandatory component of a required class or Public School Program, and
- does **not** permit schools to charge user fees or rental costs for items that have been provided by or purchased through Department of Education credit allocation to the Board.

Monitoring:

- The Director of Programs and Services is responsible for the implementation, monitoring and revision of this policy.
- This policy will be monitored annually.

Board Approved: April 6/05
Ref: AP 402.12
Monitoring Date: Annually
Revised: