

**SCHOOL FEES NOTICE
FOR FAMILIES OF STUDENTS IN GRADES SEVEN THROUGH TWELVE**

[IF YOU NEED HELP IN UNDERSTANDING THIS NOTICE, CALL Susi Blackhurst]

Utah law permits the charging of fees in grades seven through twelve. This means that your student may be charged fees for school materials, supplies, activities and programs. **Except for common household articles and common articles of clothing, your student cannot be required by a teacher or other person to pay fees or provide any materials, money, or any other thing of value unless that requirement has been approved by the local Board of Education and included in the school or district fee schedule.** In addition, no teacher, coach, or other person acting as a representative of the school may invite or require your student to participate in any summer camp or other activity unless the costs have been approved by the local Board of Education and placed on the fee schedule.

If your student is eligible based on income verification or receives SSI payments (QUALIFIED CHILD WITH DISABILITIES), or if you are receiving TANF (currently qualified for financial assistance or food stamps) or the student was placed in your home by the government as a foster child, the school must waive the fees (meaning that you will not be required to pay the fees). If you are having a financial emergency caused by job loss, major illness, or other substantial loss of income beyond your control, your child might be eligible for a fee waiver even if other eligibility criteria are not met.

You may apply for fee waivers by submitting the *Fee Waiver Application (Grades 7-12)*. A copy of the application is included with this notice. Additional copies may be obtained from the school office. As soon as you have sent in the completed forms, the fee requirement will be **suspended until a final decision has been reached about your student's eligibility for fee waivers.** If the application is denied, the school will send you a *Decision and Appeal Form*. The Form will tell you why the application was denied, and explain how to appeal the decision. The form for starting an appeal is on the same page as the form for the decision. Remember to always keep a copy for yourself. **If you appeal a denial of fee waivers, you will not need to pay the fees until the appeal is decided.**

If your student is eligible for fee waivers, all fees must be waived, including--but not limited to--the following:

Fees for registration, textbooks, textbook and equipment deposits, school supplies, activity cards, extracurricular activities, and school lockers; lab and shop fees; gym and towel fees; costs for uniforms and accessories; field trips and assembly fees; costs for class or team trips; and costs of musical instruments used in school classes or activities.

There is no such thing as a "non-waivable" or "optional" fee, but alternatives to fee waivers may be arranged in some cases, but not for textbook fees. Alternatives to waivers are not permitted for textbook fees. Alternatives to simply waiving school fees may include such things as a reasonable requirement for community service or an assignment to help on a fundraiser, **but may not include installment payments, IOU's, or other delayed payment plans.** Community service requirements and fundraisers must be appropriate to the age, physical condition, and maturity of the student, and must be conducted in such a way that students are not subjected to embarrassment, ridicule, or humiliation. In addition, community service requirements and fundraisers must avoid excessive burdens on students and families and give proper consideration to a student's educational and transportation needs and other responsibilities.

Your school will inform you if it will be requiring community service as an alternative to fee waivers.

All students involved in a program for which funds are being raised must be invited to participate in the fundraiser, not just those who are eligible for fee waivers. All participants in the fundraiser should share in the earned benefits. Participation in the fundraiser may be required for those who have requested fee waivers. If a fee-waiver eligible student has already performed a community service requirement covering all of the fees in question, then additional fundraising shall not be required of that student unless all students are subject to the same requirement.

Since people in low-income areas usually have less discretionary income and so may be less able to donate or spend money on fundraisers than those in higher-income areas, quotas should not be used. The question should be whether a student made a good-faith effort, not whether a particular student met a sales quota. If a student makes the requested effort, but sufficient money is not raised in the fundraiser to cover all charges for the school activity and the activity goes forward anyway, then the difference between the fee-waiver eligible student's share of the proceeds and the actual amount of the fee must be waived.

School funds are limited, and your school may need help other than fees. As a result, **the school may ask you for tax-deductible donations of school supplies, equipment, or money, but the school cannot require donations. No student may be penalized for not making a donation.** For example, if donations are used to pay for a field trip, every student must be allowed to go on the trip even though some may not have made a donation.

Regardless of whether you have paid fees, donations, and contributions or not, or have applied for, received, or been denied waivers, your name is confidential and cannot be disclosed to **anyone** lacking both a right and a need to know the information. The school may, however, with the consent of the donor, give appropriate recognition to any person or organization making a major donation or contribution to the school.

Charges for class rings, yearbooks, school pictures, letter jackets, and similar items are not fees and need not be waived. Also, if your student loses or damages school property, the costs of replacement or repair are not fees and need not be waived. Students may be required to pay fees for concurrent enrollment or advanced placement courses. The portion of the fees related specifically to college or post-secondary grades or credit is not subject to fee waiver. In addition, only those students who have paid a textbook or equipment deposit are eligible to receive a deposit refund at the end of the year.

The school and school staff **cannot** withhold, reduce, or enhance grades or credit, or withhold grades, credit, report cards, transcripts, or diplomas to enforce the payment of fees. A school may withhold the official student records of a student responsible for lost or damaged school property consistent with Section 53A-11-806, but may not withhold a student's records that would prevent a student from attending school or being properly placed in school.

State law requires schools or school districts to require DOCUMENTATION of fee waiver eligibility if parent must "apply for fee waivers." Local boards will have policies and/or guidelines for determining required documentation for eligibility for fee waivers.

State law requires a school district to provide alternatives in lieu of fee waivers, "to the fullest extent reasonably possible according to individual circumstances of both fee waiver applicant and school," consistent with local board policies and/or guidelines.

Fee waiver eligibility documentation is NOT required annually but may be required at any time by the school or a parent may ask for review for good cause. Also, documentation SHALL NOT be maintained for privacy reasons. Schools may transfer fee waiver eligibility information to other schools to which students advance or transfer.

NOTE: If your district does not require parents in the entire district area or parents and students in specific schools or sections of the district to “apply for fee waivers,” district administrators NEED NOT require verification of eligibility under this section.

If you have questions, first talk to your school or school district representative listed below. If you still need help, contact one of the other agencies listed:

School telephone no.: 801-768-4202
Ask for: Susi Blackhurst

District telephone no.: 801-768-4202
Ask for: Susi Blackhurst

Utah State Board of Education
250 East 500 South
P.O. Box 144200
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4200
801-538-7830

USBE 4/25/11

FEE WAIVER APPLICATION (GRADES 7-12)
Please read the School Fees Notice before completing the application!
All information on this application will be kept confidential

SECTION A: STUDENT INFORMATION AND BASIS FOR FEE WAIVER.

Name of student: _____ Student Number: _____

Address: _____

School: _____ Grade level: _____

Name of parent or guardian: _____ Phone number: _____

Please check if applicable: (attach supporting documents for each category that applies)

- _____ Student is eligible based on income verification (See Section D, Page 2 of 2).
- _____ Student receives (SSI)* Supplemental Security Income (QUALIFIED CHILD WITH DISABILITIES).
- _____ Family receives TANF (currently qualified for financial assistance or food stamps).
- _____ Student is in Foster Care (under Utah or local governmental supervision).
- _____ Student is in State Custody.

***Please note: Students who receive Survivor Benefits Do Not Qualify for the SSI category listed above.**

Parents or guardians shall provide income eligibility documentation in the form of income tax returns or current pay stubs demonstrating compliance with requirements consistent with state law and LEA policies and guidelines for all of the above qualifiers.

If none of the above apply but you wish to apply for fee waivers or other help with school fees because of serious financial problems, please state the reasons for the request:

(If you need more space, please continue on the back of this page)

Please check the school fee schedule and list all fees that you wish to have waived. If your student is eligible for fee waivers, all of those fees identified will be waived. **Please note that costs for yearbooks, class rings, letter jackets, school pictures, and similar items are not fees and will not be waived. Students may be required to pay fees for concurrent enrollment or advanced placement courses. The portion of the fees related specifically to college or post-secondary grades or credit is not subject to fee waiver.**

Fee Description	Amount	Fee Description	Amount
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Please give this application to the Principal, Assistant Principal, or the School Fee Counselor when you have finished filling it out. All fee payments will be suspended until the school has determined if your student is eligible for fee waivers. You will then be given a written notice of that decision. **The school shall require you to present proof of eligibility.** State law requires schools or school districts to require DOCUMENTATION of fee waiver eligibility if parent must "apply for fee waivers." State law also requires that school districts provide alternatives in lieu of fee waivers, "to the fullest extent reasonably possible according to individual circumstances of both fee waiver applicant and school," consistent with local board policies and/or guidelines which may include tutorial assistance to other students, assistance before or after school to teachers and other school personnel on school related matters, and general community or home service. If your student is eligible for a waiver, the school cannot require you to agree to an installment payment plan or sign an IOU in place of a waiver.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION I HAVE PROVIDED IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF. I ALSO GIVE SCHOOL OFFICIALS PERMISSION TO USE THIS FORM AS A RELEASE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY.

DATE: _____

PARENT'S OR GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE

USBE 04/14/17

Section B: INCOME VERIFICATION FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS (Required for students who do not qualify based on a special category.)

LIST ALL INCOME BEFORE DEDUCTIONS IN THE APPROPRIATE COLUMNS ON SAME LINE AS RECEIVER.

Convert to monthly income: (weekly) multiply by 4.33; (every two weeks) multiply by 26 divide by 12; (twice a month) multiply by 2; and (annually) divide by 12

The last income tax return or the last three pay stubs, or both, if available, of each household member are required to be attached to this form.

NAME Last	First	M.I. (also known as)	Earnings from work (before deductions)	Pension/Retirement Social Security	Welfare, alimony child support	Other income 2nd job, etc.	Total by Adult Monthly
			Job 1 Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Income
1			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
3			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
4			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
5			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
6			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
7			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
8			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

Total number of ALL PEOPLE living in household _____

Section C. EXAMPLES OF INCOME

Earnings from Work	Pension/Retirement Social Security	Welfare, Alimony Child Support	Other Income
Wages, salaries and tips, strike benefits, unemployment comp., workers' comp, net income from self-owned business or farm	Pensions, supplement, security income, retirement payments, Social Security Income (including SSI a child receives)	TANF payments, welfare payments, alimony, and child support payments	Disability benefits; cash withdrawn from savings; interest & dividends; income from estates, trusts, and investments, regular contributions from persons not living in the household; net royalties and annuities; net rental income; any other income

Section D. INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	15,678	1,307	654	603	302
2	21,112	1,760	880	812	406
3	26,546	2,213	1,107	1,021	511
4	31,980	2,665	1,333	1,230	615
5	37,414	3,118	1,559	1,439	720
6	42,848	3,571	1,786	1,648	824
7	48,282	4,024	2,012	1,857	929
8	53,716	4,477	2,239	2,066	1,033
For each additional family member, add:	5,434	453	227	209	105

In lieu of income verification, attach supporting documents to this form for each special category that applies. For TANF (financial assistance or food stamps) attach a letter of decision covering the current period from Workforce Services.

For SSI (QUALIFIED CHILD WITH DISABILITIES), attach the benefit verification letter from Social Security. For State custody or foster care, provide the "youth in custody required intake form" and/or "school enrollment letter" provided by the case worker from DCFS or Juvenile Justice Department.

This form and all supporting documents will be destroyed after the approval process is complete.