



School Fees – Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Many of the programs and opportunities that students enjoy necessitate school fees. Comments, suggestions and questions about school fees are welcomed. Contact information is noted at the bottom of this form.

1. Why do schools charge fees to parents/guardians?

Fees help pay for supplies/materials/resources that students use and consume usually in a single school year. Some items, like textbooks, may be used by several students over two-three years so users each contribute to a portion of the total cost. Fees pay only part of the costs for consumable resources.

2. How much are the school fees?

When the board approves the annual operating budget, it sets *Resource Fees*. Currently the fees are: \$95 for high school, \$90 for junior high, \$85 for elementary and \$57.50 for kindergarten students. *Annual Transportation Fees*, if they apply, are also set by the board: \$50 for kindergarten, \$100 for all other grades up to a maximum of \$225 per family. Schools, in turn, determine *Supply Fees* which vary considerably from school to school and depend on the courses your child takes. Schools use the funds to purchase materials for specific courses and student projects as well as to pay fees for the use of activity centers like the swimming pool. *Resource, Transportation and Supply Fees* are mandatory. Schools may also assess "*other fees*" for items like school photos, field trips, social events, year books, and services like hot lunch programs. These other fees are voluntary. Most fees are assessed at the beginning of the school year or semester. As opportunities arise, schools may notify parents and request a fee for an activity. Parents often purchase new clothing, running shoes, back packs and personal supplies like pens/pencils around the beginning of a school year. While these items are associated with school attendance, they are not school fees.

3. What if I can't afford the fees?

Schools work diligently to keep fees as low as possible and to provide a reasonable balance between limiting costs and limiting opportunities. As well, payment plans such as monthly contributions are available to provide flexibility for parents. Family rates may also apply. Please inquire at the school. In cases of undue hardship, fees in part or whole may be waived. Contact the superintendent's office at 934-5121 for confidential information about the fee waiver program.

4. Is the school division aware of the total costs to parents?

The school division regularly monitors the amount and types of school fees to ensure affordability for parents as well as to consider the effect on student programming opportunities. Schools consult with School Councils on fee issues. If you have concerns about fees, please contact your school principal and /or the superintendent (934-5121) or your local trustee (contact information is available through the division office or the web site at www.ghsd75.com).