

**BOARD POLICY
STUDENT FEES, FINES AND CHARGES**

**Descriptive Code: JS
Date: July 11, 2006**

The Columbia County Board of Education is charged with providing free education for all Columbia County students. The Quality Basic Education Act (QBE) provides that neither tuition nor fees may be charged for state-funded courses.

The Columbia County Board of Education will provide basic instructional materials required to complete each course of study funded for credit under QBE.

Students enrolled in the schools of Columbia County will be required to supply materials basic to all courses, such as paper, pencils, crayons, and pens. No specific types or brands of materials may be required. Any required materials above and beyond these shall be provided by the Columbia County Board of Education.

A basic list of instruments and/or equipment for instrumental music programs shall be developed for each school that will be provided equitably to all students. However, students may rent or purchase their own instruments.

Fees shall not be charged as a condition of full participation or credit in a course for field trips or activities related to any state-funded course.

Fees may be charged for extracurricular activities as long as charges are not made a condition of attendance or credit within the normal day academic program. Fees may also be charged for a course-related enhancement or enrichment activity provided the activity is outside the school day and does not affect credit in the course.

Examples of legitimate charges include but are not limited to the following:

- * Gate admissions
- * Student publications
- * Graduation
- * Activity fees
- * Parking
- * Summer school/On-line courses/After-school program
- * Cafeteria fees

Students may be charged a reasonable fee for restitution of lost, damaged, or abused school system property. Students who refuse or fail to pay for lost, damaged, or abused school system property will not be issued any additional school system property until restitution is made.

Students who wish to exempt any exams must clear all fines. All textbooks, library books, and/or materials assigned to the student must be turned in and/or all fees paid before permission to exempt is granted.

Student records may not be held because of nonpayment of fees. However, schools may withhold grade cards, diplomas, or certificates until fees are paid. It is expected that all textbooks, library books, and/or materials/items issued to the student will be returned and/or all fees paid at the conclusion of the course(s) or at time of the student's withdrawal/transfer to another course/school.

Opportunity shall be given for the student and/or parent(s) to meet with school administrators to discuss any fines leveled against the student. If the student or parent is unable to pay the fine as a single payment, a prorated installment plan may be developed to satisfy the debt.

PROCEDURE: YES

ADOPTED: 1/12/88

REVISED: 10/11/94, 10/1/97, 8/10/99

REFERENCE: Policy IHAA

Columbia County Board of Education