



All schools cover the cost of activities for students wishing to participate but who are unable to pay for an activity. General fundraising activities such as hot lunch programs, product sales, and events like fashion shows, concerts, drama productions or other school-wide events help offset overall cost as well as cover individual costs on a case-by-case basis. School-wide activities are an essential part of building school culture and creating a sense of belonging for staff and students.

General School Fees:

Schools collect an annual fee from each student for the following types of activities:

- school wide team building activities (gym blasts, soc hops, spirit week etc.)
- swimming programs
- skating programs
- student agendas
- class yearbooks
- locker/lock fee
- milk programs
- in transition years there may be a fee collected at a particular grade level for things like year-end camp, farewells, graduation etc.
- optional extra-curricular activities such as sports, drama club, science club etc.

Each school sets their own fee to be collected based upon the activities that they can provide to students. The amount per student ranges from \$5 to \$30 for general school fees which would be a total divisional cost of $4720 \times \$30 = \$141,600$.

Course-Specific School Fees:

Certain courses at our schools have a cost associated with them to either purchase or rent necessary equipment. Fees may be collected for the following types of things:

- musical instrument rental/purchase
- art kit materials
- curling ice rental
- photography materials for personal use
- industrial arts materials for personal projects
- moto-sport materials for personal projects
- home economics materials for personal projects
- first aid certification fees
- babysitting course certification fees
- food handlers certification fees

Teachers may also come across experiential learning opportunities linked to curriculum for which there is no budget assigned. Providing students with these learning opportunities may involve a fee to participate.

The amount collected from students and families differs from year to year based on the courses being offered each year as well as the number of students participating in those courses. Middle years schools would like the board to consider funding IA/HE and other exposures courses as its own budget line. High school courses are funded by the province and middle years schools use the high school funding to begin offering program exposure to younger students. This practice reduces the available funding for high school students in those courses and thus limits the amount and types of materials schools can purchase. An amount per middle years student would be \$30 to \$50 per student which would be a divisional cost of $1120 \times \$50 = \$56,000$

Field Trip Fees:

Schools take students on field trips locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally. Some trips are days trips while others are overnight trips for multiple days. Some trips are curricular-based while others are interest-based. All field trips are optional and attendance by students is at the discretion of parents.

Off-site field trips usually involve transportation costs as well as substitute costs. The number of field trips for each child differs from year to year and is dependent upon the way in which an individual teacher is choosing to enhance curricular outcomes.

The types of field trips offered to students include, but are not limited to:

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| -museums | -nature conservancies | -arts productions |
| -outdoor activities | -overnight camps | -aquatic activities |
| -skating | -cultural events | -interschool activities |
| -sporting events | -language camps | -athletic competitions |
| -band competitions | -specialized venues | -post secondary tours |
| -celebration activities | | |

Bringing speakers, presenters, elders, and productions into the school are utilized and have costs associated with them. These types of activities include but are not limited to:

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| -theatre productions | -post secondary presentations |
| -Artists in the Schools | -motivational speakers |
| -resident authors | -career symposiums |

School and division administration indicated that there have not been any concerns nor complaints about the current way that fees are collected for activities and would like to better understand why this has become a topic of discussion for the Board.

Questions remaining would be:

- Is the current field trip process broken?
- Will funds cover lunch/meal costs?
- Is there an expectation for every child/class/course to have a field trip?

The recommendation would be to leave the process of providing field trips as is unless there is an identified reason for stepping away from the user pay model. The schools work hard to balance the number of trips offered, with equitable participation, and subsidized costs as much as possible. It is important to restate that schools have always covered the cost for a family who is unable to participate due to monetary constraints. Field trips are an integral part of learning as they promote team building, wellness, relevant experiences, and help keep student engagement high.

There is an existing Field Trip budget allocated to schools. Should the Board wish to allocate additional funds to this area, an amount of \$50-\$100 per student would be needed to offset fees, transportation, and substitute costs. This would create a divisional cost of $4720 \times \$100 = \$472,000$.

The total amount for consideration to begin offsetting costs of general school fees, middle years exposures costs and student field trips would be:

$$\$141,600 + \$56,000 + \$472,000 = \$669,900$$

This total does not include course specific fees like instrument rentals, facilities rentals, or items produced and kept by students. The average cost for instrument rental is around \$120 per student and the average cost for art kits is \$40 per student.