

Operational Services

Administrative Procedure - Fines, Fees, and Charges - Waiver of Student Fees

Actor	Action
Superintendent or designee	Prepares and recommends to the School Board a list of school fees and fines to be charged to students for the use, damage, or loss of textbooks, consumable materials, field trips, extracurricular activities, graduation fees, and similar items. See 105 ILCS 5/1-3 and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.245(a) for definitions of <i>school fees</i> and <i>fines</i>. Initial notice: For all students enrolling in the District for the first time, notifies their parents/guardians that the District will waive school fees and fines for persons unable to afford them in accordance with Board policy 4:140, <i>Waiver of Student Fees</i>. The initial notice must at least describe: (1) the Board's policy, including the criteria and other circumstances under which the District will waive school fees or fines; (2) the school fees or fines subject to a waiver; (3) the procedure to apply for a fee or fine waiver, including the availability of a fee or fine waiver request form and the documents required by the District in verifying income; and (4) the dispute resolution procedure. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.245(c)(2)(A). Notice with every bill: Includes a notice with every bill for fees and/or fines sent to parents/guardians that the District will waive school fees and fines for persons unable to afford them in accordance with Board policy 4:140, <i>Waiver of Student Fees</i>. The notice must include a description of the waiver application process or the name, address, and telephone number of the person to contact for information concerning a waiver. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.245(c)(2)(B). Determines whether the required inclusions in these notices will be satisfied by providing parents/guardians with a written copy of Board policy 4:140, <i>Waiver of Student Fees</i>, and 4:140-E1, <i>Application for Fee Waiver</i>.
Parents/Guardians seeking a school fee and fine waiver	For waiver sought based on income guidelines for the federal free meals program or because parents/guardians are veterans or active-duty military personnel with income at or below 200% of the federal poverty line: Complete 4:140-E1, <i>Application for Fee Waiver</i>, and return it to the Building Principal along with documents that will verify the family's income, such as, payroll stubs, tax returns, or evidence of receipt of food stamps or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.245(d).

	May apply for a waiver of school fees and fines by completing 4:140-E1, <i>Application for Fee Waiver</i>, at any time. For waiver sought based on homeless status: Contact the District Liaison for Homeless Children, [<i>insert name</i>], at [<i>insert contact information</i>].
Building Principal or designee	Determines the student's eligibility for fee or fine waiver in accordance with Board policy 4:140, <i>Waiver of Student Fees</i>. Notifies parents/guardians within 30 calendar days if their <i>Application for Fee Waiver</i> is denied. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.245(c)(3). A rejection notice must include: (1) the reason for the denial; (2) a notification of their right to appeal as well as the appeal process and timelines (4:140-E3, <i>Response to Application for Fee Waiver, Appeal, and Response to Appeal</i>); and (3) a statement that they may reapply at any time if circumstances change. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.245(c)(3)(A). Ensures that any completed 4:140-E1, <i>Application for Fee Waiver</i>, and 4:140-E3, <i>Response to Application for Fee Waiver, Appeal, and Response to Appeal</i>, are confidentially treated and maintained. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.245(f).
Parents/Guardians seeking a school fee and fine waiver	May appeal the denial of a waiver request. If requested, meets with the person who will decide the appeal in order to explain why the waiver should be granted. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.245(c)(3)(B).
Superintendent or designee	If the parents/guardians request to meet with the person who will decide the appeal to explain why the waiver should be granted, contacts the parents/guardians and schedules the meeting. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.245(c)(3)(B). Ensures that the person who decides the appeal is not the person who initially denied the waiver or a subordinate of this person. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.245(c)(3)(B). Responds in writing to parents/guardians' appeal within 30 calendar days of receipt of the appeal. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.245(c)(3)(B). Ensures that no discrimination, punishment, or penalty of any kind, including the lowering of grades, exclusion from any curricular or extracurricular program, or withholding of student records, grades, transcripts, or diplomas, is exercised against a student whose parent(s)/guardian(s) are unable to pay any required fees or fines for the loss of school property. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.13(d), added by P.A. 104-391 ; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.245(g).

APPROVED: