

Operational Services

Administrative Procedure - Fines, Fees, and Charges - Waiver of Student Fees ¹

Actor	Action
Superintendent or designee	<p>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, amended by P.A. 102-805, and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.245(a) for definitions of <i>school fees</i> and <i>fines</i>.</p> <p>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>.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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>.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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>.</p>

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

¹ School districts have two income verification options for school fee and fine waiver applications. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.13, amended by P.A.s ~~102-1032, 102-805~~, and 103-154 ~~and 104-391~~. See f/n 7 in sample policy 4:140, *Waiver of Student Fees*. This procedure uses option #1. If the district implements option #2 for verifying income to determine eligibility for fee and fine waivers, replace every instance of “4:140-E1, *Application for Fee Waiver*” with “4:140-E2, *Application for Fee Waiver Based on Federal Free Meals Program*.”

Parents/Guardians seeking a school fee and fine waiver	<p>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:</p> <p>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). ²</p> <p>May apply for a waiver of school fees and fines by completing 4:140-E1, <i>Application for Fee Waiver</i>, at any time.</p> <p>For waiver sought based on homeless status:</p> <p>Contact the District Liaison for Homeless Children, [<i>insert name</i>], at [<i>insert contact information</i>].</p>
Building Principal or designee	<p>Determines the student’s eligibility for fee or fine waiver in accordance with Board policy 4:140, <i>Waiver of Student Fees</i>.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p>
Parents/Guardians seeking a school fee and fine waiver	<p>May appeal the denial of a waiver request.</p> <p>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).</p>
Superintendent or designee	<p>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).</p>

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² If the district implements option #2 for verifying income to determine eligibility for fee and fine waivers from f/n 7 of sample policy 4:140, *Waiver of Student Fees*, replace this sentence with the following sentence:

Complete exhibit 4:140-E2, *Application for Fee Waiver Based on Federal Free Meals*, and return it to the Building Principal.

	<p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Ensures that no discrimination, or punishment, <u>or penalty</u> of any kind, including the lowering of grades, exclusion from <u>any curricular or extracurricular program</u> classes, or withholding of student records, <u>grades</u>, transcripts, or diplomas, is exercised against a student whose parent(s)/guardian(s) are unable to purchase required textbooks or instructional materials or to pay any required fees <u>and/or fines for the loss of school property</u>. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.13(d), added by P.A. 104-391 28-19.2(a), amended by P.A. 102-805; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.245(g).³</p>
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³ If the district seeks to hold parents/guardians accountable for unpaid fines, fees, or charges, consult the board attorney to ensure that any consequences imposed on parents/guardians do not discriminate against or punish students.