

Instrument Usage Fee



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History

- The current “Instrument Usage Fee” structure was approved as a district fee by the board beginning in the 2001-02 school year.
- The rationale for the instrument usage fee plan is threefold:
 - 1) assist in maintaining the district’s school owned instrument inventory
 - 2) create equity among those who purchase and/or rent an instrument and those who use school owned instruments
 - 3) encourage those students who use district owned instruments to take proper care of them
- Band and orchestra directors provided input into development of the original plan and the new proposed options.

History (cont.)

- Special thanks to the following DISD band and orchestra directors who provided input into the current proposed recommendations:

Jesse Woolery, DHS Associate Band Director

Amy Woody, GHS Head Band Director

Eddy Russell, RHS Head Band Director

Allison Suding, CMS Head Band Director

Christin Bunch, RCMS Head Band Director

Jeff Fox, RHS Head Orchestra Director

Kara Ortiz, HMS Head Orchestra Director

Michael Burris, SMS Head Orchestra Director

History (cont.)

- In the early years of the program, sufficient funds were collected to cover the cost of repairs for school owned instruments.
- As the district has added more schools with increased instrument inventory and a relatively steady increase in students qualifying for fee waiver status, there are now consistent deficits each year in the funds collected and the amount expended for repairs to school owned instruments.
- Repair costs also increase over time, making it more expensive to keep the district's band and orchestra instruments in optimum playing condition.

Data

- The following numbers represent the use of Fee Waiver instruments provided by the district:
- When the program began in 2000-01, the district provided 20 instruments for use by Fee Waiver students
- Data for the last five years shows the following trend in instrument usage by Fee Waiver students:

| | |
|---------|-----|
| 2011-12 | 439 |
| 2012-13 | 587 |
| 2013-14 | 695 |
| 2014-15 | 642 |
| 2015-16 | 706 |

Data (cont.)

- The following revenue and expenditure data has been collected for the last five years:

| Year | Amt. Collected | Amt. Expended | Difference |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 2011-12 | \$23,075.00 | \$19,873.73 | \$3,201.27 |
| 2012-13 | \$31,245.00 | \$39,178.39 | (\$7,933.39) |
| 2013-14 | \$25,585.00 | \$31,797.51 | (\$6,394.51) |
| 2014-15 | \$49,088.25 | \$51,055.56 | (\$1,967.31) |
| 2015-16 | \$44,918.00 (to date) | \$55,935.78 (to date) | (\$11,017.78) |

- It is estimated that using a fee of \$125.00 over the past two years would have produced the following results:

| | |
|---------|---|
| 2014-15 | \$8,250 more than actually generated |
| 2015-16 | <u>\$6,800</u> more than actually generated |
| | \$15,050 more than actually generated |

| | |
|---------|---|
| 2014-15 | \$1,967.31 repair deficit |
| 2015-16 | <u>\$11,017.78</u> repair deficit (to date) |
| | \$12,985.09 repair deficit for the past two years |

Data (cont.)

- It is estimated that at the end of the fiscal year in June, the district would have broken even using the \$125.00 fee option for the past two years.
- The typical range of instrument usage fees in the Denton ISD fourteen comparison districts charging a fee is currently \$75-\$125.
- Those students who rent or own their instruments generally pay \$400-\$800 for rental and \$500-\$2,000+ if they own their instrument.

Repair Information

- Instrument repair needs vary from year to year and instrument to instrument, ranging from minor adjustments to major work.
- Periodically, instruments must be thoroughly cleaned to maintain proper working order.
- Typical repairs can cost as little as \$75-\$150, while more major repairs can range from \$300-\$400+.
- With new schools and new instruments, repair costs are usually minimal or are under warranty, but as instruments age, the repair costs typically increase.
- Instruments are evaluated annually by professional instrument repairmen and if deemed beyond cost-effective repair, they are taken out of the district inventory and replaced.

Current Plan

- The current fee is \$100 per year for those using a school owned instrument.
- All percussionists grades 6-12 pay \$50.00.
- Those qualifying for reduced lunch status pay \$50 per year.
- Those qualifying for free lunch status pay \$25 per year.
- Parents may either pay the total fee at the beginning of the year or they are offered payment plan options to meet this obligation.

Option 1

(Current Plan)

- Keep the instrument usage fee at the current rate of \$100 for all band and orchestra students.
- Percussionists continue paying \$50 (6th grade percussionists purchase their own drum kit).
- Those qualifying for reduced lunch status pay \$50.
- Those qualifying for free lunch status pay \$25.
- Payment plan options will be available to meet this obligation.

Option 2

- Increase the instrument usage fee to \$125 for all band and orchestra students.
- 6th grade percussionists will pay \$50; 7th-12th grade percussionists will pay the total fee since they make full use of the district owned percussion equipment.
- Those qualifying for reduced lunch status will pay \$50.
- Those qualifying for free lunch status will pay \$25.
- Payment plan options will be available to meet this obligation.

Option 3

- Increase the instrument usage fee to \$150 for all band and orchestra students.
- 6th grade percussionists will pay \$75; 7th-12th grade percussionists will pay the total fee since they make full use of the district owned percussion equipment.
- Those qualifying for reduced lunch status will pay \$50.
- Those qualifying for free lunch status will pay \$25.
- Payment plan options will be available to meet this obligation.
- None of our metroplex comparison districts currently have a fee structure at this level.

Rationale for Change in Fee Structure

- Offsets increased repair costs to the district due to more schools, more instruments needing to be repaired, increased numbers of Fee Waiver students, and higher costs to maintain and repair instruments.
- Encourages students and parents to invest in the necessary supplies to participate in band and orchestra while making their involvement affordable.
- Provides an extremely economical way for students to be in band and orchestra when compared to the cost of instrument rental or purchase.
- Provides funds to assist in keeping the district's current instrument inventory in optimum playing condition.

Questions

- Are there any questions?