

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:
 - Brian Wilson, DHS Head Band Director
 - Amy Woody, GHS Head Band Director
 - Eddy Russell, RHS Head Band Director
 - Manny Guerrero, CMS Head Band Director
 - Christin Bunch, RCMS Head Band Director
 - Kristin Johnson, SMS Head Band Director
 - Rob Chilton, BMMS Head Band Director
 - Michelle Hanlon, GHS Head Orchestra Director
 - Angela Harvey, RCMS Orchestra Director
 - Carrie Hartless, BMMS Orchestra Director
 - Gina Segapeli, MMS 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 has seen a steady increase in students qualifying for fee waiver status, there has been a deficit both last year and again this 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.

Current Plan

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

Data

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

2009-10	275
2010-11	325
2011-12	439
2012-13	587
2013-14	695

Data (cont.)

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

Year	Amt. Collected	Amt. Expended	Difference
2009-10	\$26,865.05	\$16,849.22	\$10,015.83
2010-11	\$31,789.00	\$24,233.03	\$7,564.97
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 (to date)	\$31,797.51 (to date)	(\$6,394.51)

- The typical range of instrument usage fees in the metroplex for those 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 repairs vary from year to year and instrument to instrument, ranging from minor adjustments to major work.
- Periodically, instruments need to be thoroughly cleaned to maintain proper working order.
- Typical repairs can cost as little as \$50-\$75, while more major repairs range from \$300-\$400+.
- With new schools and new instruments, repair costs are usually minimal, but as instruments age, the repair costs typically increase.
- As instruments are evaluated annually by professional instrument repairmen and are deemed beyond cost-effective repair, instruments are taken out of the district inventory and replaced.

Option 1

- Keep the instrument usage fee at the current rate of \$100 for all band and orchestra students (except percussionists who purchase their own drum kit).
- Percussionists will continue paying \$50.
- Those qualifying for reduced lunch status will continue paying \$50.
- Those qualifying for free lunch status will 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 (except percussionists who purchase their own drum kit).
- Percussionists will pay \$75.
- Those qualifying for reduced lunch status will pay \$75.
- 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 (except percussionists who purchase their own drum kit).
- Percussionists will pay \$75.
- Those qualifying for reduced lunch status will pay \$75.
- Those qualifying for free lunch status will pay \$25.
- Payment plan options will be available to meet this obligation.

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.
- The Instrument Usage Fee plan provides an extremely economical way for students to be in band and orchestra when compared to the cost of instrument rental or purchase.
- The recommended fee structure provides adequate funds to keep the district's current instrument inventory in optimum playing condition.

Questions

- Are there any questions?