

Student Fees 2020

Iowa Law:

In the State of Iowa, public schools are “tuition-free”. But that does not mean that schools cannot charge certain fees. Indeed, the law authorizes districts to charge seven (7) types of fees, as follows:

1. Textbook Rental Fees,
2. Eye Protective Devices,
3. Ear Protective Devices,
4. Summer School Courses,
5. Driver Education Courses,
6. Discretionary Transportation, and
7. School Supplies.

Not all supplies may truly be called “school supplies.” If an item is essential to the instruction of a class, the item is part of tuition and must be supplied for free. For instance, a district may *NOT* charge a fee for art supplies for art class and chemicals for science class because these are items necessary or essential to the instruction of those classes. On the other hand, if a student voluntarily desired to “upgrade” his materials in a project in a woodworking course (for example, go from pine to cherry wood), the student would have to pay for the upgrade. The district must provide the basic pine for the instruction, but the student pays for voluntarily choosing a better quality of wood. Expendable worksheets are part of instruction and must be provided for free.

Full Waiver. A student shall be granted a waiver of all fees if:

- a) The student or student’s family meets the financial eligibility criteria for free meals;
- b) The student or student’s family meets financial eligibility criteria for the Family Investment Program (FIP);
- c) The student or student’s family is eligible for transportation assistance; or
- d) The student is in foster care.

Partial Waiver, if the student or the student’s family meets the financial eligibility criteria for reduced price meals.

Temporary Waiver. A student may be granted a temporary waiver of a fee or fees in the event of a temporary financial difficulty in the student’s immediate family.

Prohibited Fees. There are some fees that school boards must be careful not to charge.

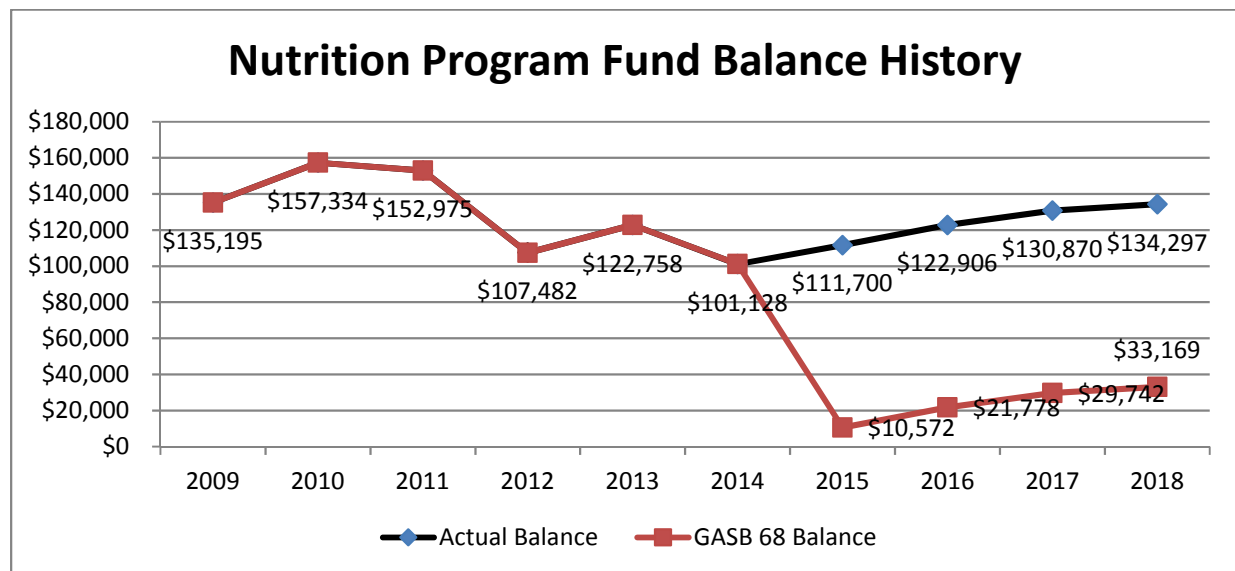
- A school cannot *require* all students to purchase an activity ticket.
- A school cannot use or allow a booster club or parent teacher organizations, etc., to charge a fee that the district is not allowed to charge directly.
- A school cannot charge a student a fee to participate in an extracurricular activity.

Background:

Below is a table of fees charged by area schools.

	Activity Tickets		Registration Fee		B-fast H.S.	Lunch H.S.
	Student	Adult	Elem.	H.S.		
B-K	\$35	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$1.50	\$2.90
Eagle Grove	\$0	\$75	\$80	\$85	\$1.50	\$2.70
Forest City	\$70	\$125	\$60	\$125	\$1.85	\$2.70
Garner-H-V	\$20	\$100	\$40	\$85	\$1.75	\$2.95
Lake Mills	\$20	\$40	\$50	\$65	\$1.25	\$2.50
North Iowa	\$50	\$85	\$70	\$85	\$1.50	\$2.60
West Fork	\$40	\$45	\$55	\$85	\$1.70	\$2.60
West Hancock	\$35	\$70	\$60	\$60	\$1.45	\$2.20
AVERAGES	\$34	\$75	\$59	\$81	\$1.56	\$2.64

Our Food Service Department fund balances appear to be growing the last few years. See the table below.



Normally, in past years, schools used a business model for food service and raised meal prices according to the financial needs of the program. However, the new federal law, the Healthy Hunger-free Kids Act, changed the way Midwestern schools determine their lunch prices. The federal government required us (B-K Community Schools) to raise our lunch prices regardless by no less than 10¢ per meal in recent prior years. Under federal law, this trend must continue until our students pay the same as the federal reimbursable rate.

Recommended Action:

Currently our fees are near average for schools in our area. I recommend no changes this year. Therefore, I recommend the fee schedule on the next page with the highlighted changes.

Belmond-Klemme Community School District

2020 – 2021 Fee Schedule

Instructional Fees

Three-year-old Preschool Tuition	Monthly	\$100.00
Four-year-old Preschool Tuition*	Annual (includes milk)	\$90.00
*(2 nd year tuition is \$200 per month. Or a student can be in kindergarten for two years, if eligible.)		

K – 12 Book Rental Fee	Annual	\$60.00
K – 6 Headphone Fee	Annual	\$ 4.00
<i>(A headphone fee does not appear to be one of the seven fees schools can charge.)</i>		

Nutrition Program Charges

The SFA is not required to increase the paid student lunch price if the nonprofit school food service account had a positive balance as of Dec. 31, 2019.

Breakfast	PK – 12	\$ 1.50
Reduced-price Breakfast	PK – 12	\$.30
Breakfast	Adult	\$ 2.00

Lunch	K – 6	\$ 2.80
Lunch	7 – 12	\$ 2.90
Reduced-price Lunch	PK – 12	\$.40
Lunch	Adult – Change →	\$3.75 → \$ 3.85

(The Iowa DE is setting the minimum adult meal price at \$3.85 for all schools for FY21.)

Ala Carte	Extra Milk	\$.50
	Breakfast Entrée: Student	\$.75
	Breakfast Entrée: Adult	\$ 1.25
	Lunch Entrée: Student	\$ 1.25
	Lunch Entrée: Adult	\$ 2.00

Afternoon Milk	K – 3 (half year)	\$30.00
	K – 3 (full year)	\$60.00

Athletic Passes

PK – 12 Student Pass	\$35.00
Adult Pass	\$60.00

Other Sundry Charges

Drivers' Education Program Fee	\$375.00
Junior High Yearbook Price	\$15.00
High School Yearbook Price	\$40.00
Graduation Fee	\$40.00