

Student Fees 2024

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.

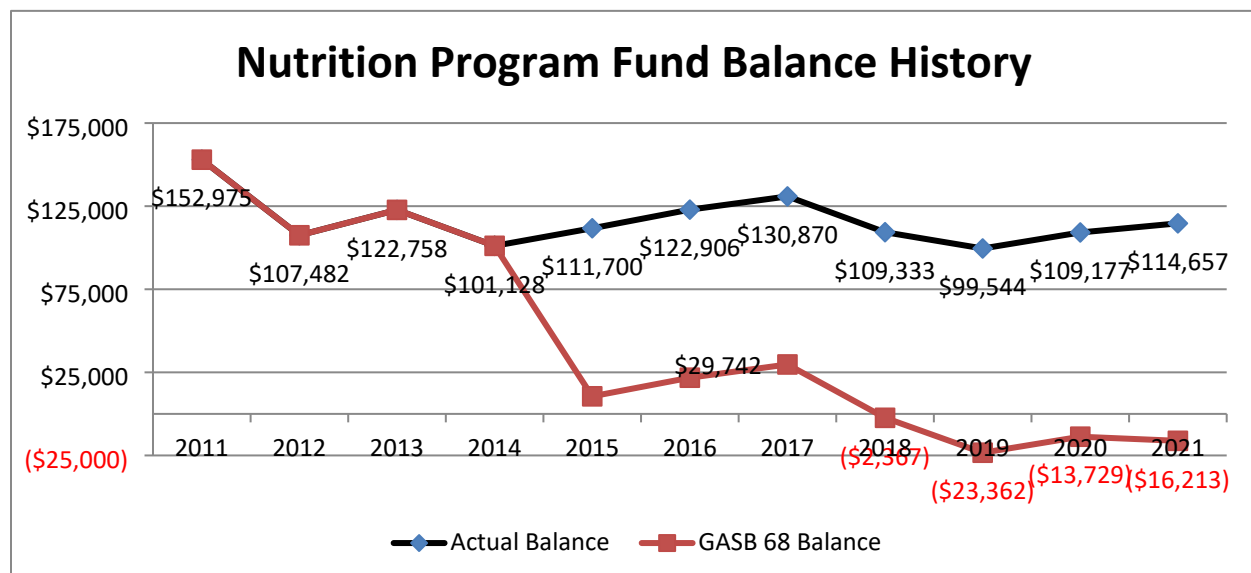
Background:

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
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Our Nutrition (Food Service) Department historical fund balances appear in the graph below. The red line represents book balances. However, in 2015, governmental accounting practices required schools to begin to represent IPERS retirement obligations on the books in case IPERS goes broke, and local schools are required to make up the difference. Therefore, the black line more closely represents our actual cash balance which is in a healthy position.



For four years, we held the line and did not raised meal prices. Our lunch prices were the same in 2021-22 as they were during the 2017-18 school year. With inflation running at 8.5% for foodstuffs last year, we boosted prices by ten cents.

Recommended Action:

Currently our fees are near average for schools in our area. I recommend a \$.10 increase for meals. Therefore, I recommend the fee schedule on the next page with the highlighted changes.

Belmond-Klemme Community School District 2023 – 2024 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

Nutrition Program Charges

Breakfast	PK – 12	\$ 1.70
Reduced-price Breakfast	PK – 12 (<i>Set by State</i>)	\$.30
Breakfast	Adult	\$ 2.20
Lunch	K – 6	\$ 3.00
Lunch	7 – 12	\$ 3.10
Reduced-price Lunch	PK – 12 (<i>Set by State</i>)	\$.40
Lunch	Adult	\$ 4.95
Ala Carte	Extra Milk	\$.60
	Breakfast Entrée: Student	\$.85
	Breakfast Entrée: Adult	\$ 1.35
	Lunch Entrée: Student	\$ 1.35
	Lunch Entrée: Adult	\$ 2.10
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	\$55.00