



SD42 POLICY 9801

FEES AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

PHILOSOPHY

The Board of Education (“Board”) believes that financial hardship must not be a barrier to a student’s access to their educational program, including participation in learning activities that are aligned with and enhance BC Curriculum.

AUTHORITY

The Board assigns the responsibility for the implementation of this policy to the Secretary Treasurer and authorizes the Secretary Treasurer to establish procedures to support consistent, fair, and respectful application of financial hardship supports. In exceptional circumstances, the Board authorizes the Secretary Treasurer (or designate) to approve financial hardship supports that vary from standard eligibility criteria, where doing so is consistent with the intent of avoiding barriers to student participation.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Access & Equity

- The District will provide a means for students to participate in District educational programs and learning activities when cost would otherwise prevent participation.
- Financial hardship support may include full or partial fee reduction, which may be applied on a graduated, proportional basis, and/or other reasonable arrangements, taking into account individual circumstances and available resources.

Dignity, Privacy & Fairness

- Requests for financial hardship support will be handled with confidentiality, fairness, sensitivity, dignity, and respect.
- Information about hardship supports will be communicated in a way that ensures charges are not a barrier to participation, including through communications about fees and permission materials for applicable activities.

Scope & Stewardship

- This policy applies to school-age students ordinarily resident in British Columbia who are enrolled in District educational programs.
- Financial hardship supports under this policy may apply to school-related fees associated with a student’s participation in District educational programs and learning activities, where cost would otherwise be a barrier to participation.
- The student body will not be assessed a fee specifically to fund hardship supports, and the District will manage hardship supports responsibly and sustainably to avoid undermining the viability of programs and learning opportunities.

APPROVED: April 27, 2022

UPDATED: April 15, 2026



SD 42 POLICY NO: 9801

FEES – HARDSHIP

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board believes that no student should be denied access to programs, events or field trips that are essential to meet prescribed learning outcomes of the BC Curriculum.

AUTHORITY

The Board assigns the responsibility for the implementation of this policy to the Secretary Treasurer and authorizes the Secretary Treasurer to establish procedures that will guide the implementation of this policy. For exceptional circumstances, the Board authorizes the Secretary Treasurer or designate to waive the low-income thresholds established in this policy

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Hardship funding may be available for those occasions when a student or students are unable to attend programs, events or field trips.
2. Fees shall be waived for families with combined gross household income at or below the low-income thresholds established by Statistics Canada.
3. Individual dignity and respect must remain paramount in handling these matters.
4. The student body must not be assessed a fee to cover hardship funding.
5. Care must be taken to ensure that the viability of programs, events, and field trips are not jeopardized through the overuse of hardship payments.
6. Extra-curricular trips that are not part of the educational program (even if they are planned to include an educational component and to have a relationship to the curriculum) are not “field trips” for the purposes of this policy and fees may be charged for such activities. In those circumstances, fees are not limited to expenses and this hardship policy need not apply.
7. Each school must communicate the availability of hardship funding to parents.

APPROVED: April 27, 2022