

**SD 42 POLICY NO: 9801**

**FEES – HARDSHIP**

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**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**