

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 District will manage hardship supports responsibly and sustainably, using available resources to support student participation while avoiding impacts on the viability of programs and learning opportunities.

APPROVED: April 27, 2022

UPDATED: June 17, 2026