

	<b>MURFREESBORO CITY SCHOOL BOARD POLICY</b>		
	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Number:	Date Adopted:
	STUDENT FEES AND FINES	SS 12	7/10
	Revision Adopted:		

## I. FEES

School fees are defined as follows:<sup>1, 4</sup>

1. Fees for activities that occur during regular school hours, including field trips, any portion of which fall within the school day;
2. Fees for activities and supplies required to participate in all courses offered for credit or grade, including interscholastic athletics and marching band if taken for credit in accordance with local board policies;
3. Fees or tuition applicable to courses taken for credit or grade during the summer by a student; except that non-resident students regularly enrolled in another school system may be required to pay fees or tuition for such summer courses;
4. Fees required for graduation ceremonies;
5. Fees for a copy of the student's records; and
6. Refundable security deposits collected by a school for use of school property for courses offered for credit or grade, including interscholastic athletics and marching band if taken for credit in accordance with local board policies.

School fees are not:<sup>1, 4</sup>

1. Fines imposed on all students for late-returned library books; parking or other traffic fine imposed for abuse of parking privileges on school property; or reasonable charges for lost or destroyed textbooks, library books, workbooks or any other property of the school;
2. Debts incurred pursuant to Rule 0520-01-030.03(13), Withholding of Student Grades for Debts Owed to the School;
3. Refundable security deposits collected by a school for use of school property for participation in extracurricular activities;
4. Costs for extracurricular activities occurring outside the regular school day including sports, optional trips, clubs or social events; (including but not limited to interscholastic athletics, Science Olympiad, jump rope teams, chorus, band, and Extended School Program fees); and
5. Non-resident tuition charged of all students attending a school system other than the one serving their place of residence.

No fee will be charged any student as a condition of attending school,<sup>2</sup> but students shall be responsible for supplying their own normal school supplies, as set forth on the school supply list which may include but not be limited to, pencil, paper, glue, and crayons.

School fees shall be waived for students who are eligible to receive free or reduced-price

school lunches.<sup>1</sup> The application for determining eligibility for free or reduced-price lunches or a form supplied by the State Department of Education shall be used to verify student eligibility for fee waivers.

At the beginning of the school year, each principal shall be responsible for providing to all students and their parents or guardians written notice of the required student fees and the process for fee waiver for students who receive free or reduced-price meals. The parent or guardian of an eligible student must sign the appropriate application for free or reduced-price meals and the waiver of school fees, but may pay for all or a portion of the school fees. Written notice of approval or denial of request for fee waivers shall be provided to all parents or guardians. Any denial shall contain specific grounds for denial and an opportunity for the parent or guardian to meet with appropriate school personnel.

No later than the July Meeting of the Board, the Board, upon the recommendation of the principals and Director of Schools, shall approve all known student fees for the upcoming school year. Additional fees may be approved during the year as needed.

The Director of Schools shall be responsible for maintaining copies of all correspondence relating to this program.

No employee may charge a student for any service rendered on the school premises. Tutoring one's own student for pay is prohibited.

## **II. FINES**

The principal shall be responsible for notifying students of any unpaid fines prior to the end of the school year.

Students who destroy, damage, or lose school property, including but not limited to buildings, school buses, books, equipment, computers, band instruments, and records, will be responsible for the actual cost of replacing or repairing such materials, equipment, computers, and band instruments.<sup>3</sup>

The report card of a student who is responsible for vandalism or theft or who has otherwise incurred a debt to a school may be held until the student or the student's parent/guardian has paid for the damages. Any and all efforts may be taken to collect a debt owed to MCS. After such fines are paid, the report card will be released to the parent and student.

Failure to remit the cost of replacing or repairing such materials or to make satisfactory arrangements with the administration for payment may result in the matter being referred to the Board for final disposition.<sup>5</sup>

Textbooks are available free to students as a loan. Parents are fully responsible for the proper care, preservation, return, or replacement of textbooks issued to the student(s). The condition of each book and book number shall be recorded by the teacher issuing it.

The life of the book is considered to be six (6) years. Charges for lost or severely damaged books will be the replacement cost of the book. For normal wear, there will be no charge.

Fines may be assessed for overdue, damaged, or lost library books. In no event will the fine exceed the current cost of replacing the book.

According to State Department of Education interpretation, an individual with a disability should not be denied a copy of the individual's educational record, including but not limited to grade cards, diplomas, certificates of progress, transcripts, Individual Educational Plans, progress reports and other records in the student's file, notwithstanding the fact the student might owe for a lost notebook.

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Cross References:

1. T.C.A. §49-2-114
2. T.C.A. §49-6-3001(a); T.O.. §49-2-110(c)
3. T.C.A. §37-10-101 through T.O.. §37-10-102
4. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.03(13)
5. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.03(14)(d)
6. Attorney General Opinion 03-027

