

Staff Report



April 16, 2024

To Board of Education (Public Meeting)

From Sean Nosek, Superintendent/CEO

Re Academy Fees 2024-2025

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board of Education approve the academy fees for the 2024-25 school year as presented below:

- Abbotsford Middle School Soccer Academy - \$500
- Abbotsford Senior Secondary Soccer Academy - \$900
- Abbotsford Traditional School Human Performance Academy - \$850
- Eugene Reimer Middle School Soccer Academy - \$399
- Robert Bateman Secondary Golf Academy - \$2,800
- Robert Bateman Secondary High-Performance Golf Academy - \$5,000
- Rick Hansen Secondary Human Performance Academy - \$850
- Yale Softball Academy - \$2,750
- Yale Baseball Skills Academy - \$3,000

RATIONALE:

Specialty academies have been offered to students in Abbotsford schools as per Section 82.1 of the *School Act*. The Board must establish a schedule of fees for academies and provide this information for the public by July 1 of each school year as per Section 82.1(5) of the *School Act*. The Board must also obtain approval from the parents' advisory council for the schedule of fees for the academy as noted in the *School Act*, Section 82.1(6). In accordance with Section 82.1 of the *School Act*, the fees for each academy have been approved by the respective parents' advisory councils. These fees will be communicated to the public accordingly. All fees, including the financial hardship clause, are in accordance with Administrative Procedure 317 - *Student Fees*.

Fees for all the academies remain the same except for the following:

- ASSS Soccer Academy has increased by \$150 due to increased costs associated with referees, transportation, and equipment/training aids/apparel.
- YSS Softball Academy has increased by \$250 due to increase in student gym membership fees, instructor fees, and transportation costs.
- YSS Baseball Academy has increased by \$500 due to increase in instructors, indoor facility and equipment costs.

Program	Grade	2023-24	2024-25
AMS Soccer Academy	6-8	\$500	\$500
ASSS Soccer Academy	9-12	\$750	\$900
ATS Human Performance Academy	9-12	\$850	\$850
ERMS Soccer Academy	6-7	\$399	\$399
RBSS Golf Academy	9-12	\$2,800	\$2,800
RBSS Golf Academy (High Performance)	9-12	\$5,000	\$5,000
RHSS Human Performance Academy	9-12	\$850	\$850
Yale Softball	9-12	\$2,500	\$2,750
Yale Baseball (Skills)	9-12	\$2,500	\$3,000

[View Complete Statute](#)

This Act is current to April 2, 2024

See the [Tables of Legislative Changes](#) for this Act's legislative history, including any changes not in force.

SCHOOL ACT
[RSBC 1996] CHAPTER 412

Part 6 — Boards of Education

Division 1 — Corporate Status and Meetings

- (b) in a school or francophone school, but takes one or more courses through an independent school by means of online learning,

each board, francophone education authority and authority of an independent school with which the student is enrolled must provide to the other access to information in those student records and permanent student records that is necessary for the other board, francophone education authority or authority of the independent school to satisfactorily perform its obligations under this Act or the *Independent School Act*, as applicable.

Repealed

79.2-79.4 [Repealed 2015-24-14.]

Repealed

80 [Repealed 2002-53-22.]

Reports

- 81** A board must prepare and submit to the minister reports and statements in the form, with the information and at the time required by the minister.

Repealed

81.1 [Repealed 2015-24-14.]

Fees and deposits

- 82** (1) A board must provide free of charge to every student of school age resident in British Columbia and enrolled in an educational program in a school operated by the board,
- (a) instruction in an educational program sufficient to meet the general requirements for graduation,
 - (b) instruction in an educational program after the student has met the general requirements for graduation, and
 - (c) educational resource materials necessary to participate in the educational program.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a student is resident in British Columbia if the student and the student's guardian are ordinarily resident in British Columbia.
- (2.1) Subject to subsection (2.2), if a board permits a student who is older than school age and is ordinarily resident in British Columbia to enrol in an educational program leading to graduation, the board must provide free of charge to that student
- (a) instruction in an educational program sufficient to meet the general requirements for graduation, and

- (b) educational resource materials necessary to participate in the educational program.
- (2.2) Subsection (2.1) does not apply to a student who has
- (a) already met the general requirements for graduation, or
 - (b) completed the requirements for graduation from a secondary school or high school in another jurisdiction.
- (3) Subject to subsections (1) and (2.1), section 82.4 and the orders of the minister, a board may charge fees for goods and services provided by the board.
- (4) A board may require a deposit for educational resource materials provided to students and to children registered under section 13.
- (5) If a board requires a deposit under subsection (4), it must refund all or part of the deposit to the student or child on return of the educational resource materials.
- (6) A board must publish a schedule of the fees to be charged and deposits required and must make the schedule available to students and to children registered under section 13 and to the parents of those students and children before the beginning of the school year.
- (7) Except as provided in an agreement under section 75 (4.1), a board is not responsible to pay for any educational activity undertaken by a student that is not provided by the board.

Specialty academies

82.1 (1) In this section, "**specialty academy**" means an educational program that emphasizes a particular sport, activity or subject area and meets the prescribed criteria set out in the regulations.

- (2) A board may offer a specialty academy if
- (a) the board has consulted with the parents' advisory council for the school where the board proposes to offer the specialty academy, and
 - (b) the board is of the opinion that there is sufficient demand for the specialty academy.
- (3) A board that offers a specialty academy must
- (a) make available sufficient instruction for students enrolled in the specialty academy to meet the general requirements for graduation, and
 - (b) continue to offer a standard educational program in the school district.
- (4) Despite section 82, but subject to section 82.4, a board may charge a student enrolled in a specialty academy fees relating to the direct costs incurred by the board in providing the specialty academy that are in addition to the costs of providing a standard educational program.

- (5) On or before July 1 of each school year, a board that offers a specialty academy must
 - (a) establish a schedule of fees to be charged under subsection (4), and
 - (b) make the schedule of fees available to the public.
- (6) Before establishing a schedule of fees under subsection (5), a board must
 - (a) consult with the parents' advisory council for the school where the specialty academy is offered, and
 - (b) obtain the approval of that parents' advisory council for the schedule of fees.

Trades programs

82.2 (1) In this section, "**trades program**" means an educational activity that is designed to certify a student for a particular occupation, and includes an apprenticeship for students registered with SkilledTradesBC under the *Skilled Trades BC Act*.

(2) Despite section 82, but subject to section 82.4, a board may do the following in relation to a student enrolled in an educational program that has a trades program component:

- (a) charge fees for the purchase or rental of tools, equipment and materials necessary for the student's participation in the trades program;
- (b) require the student to provide their own tools, equipment and materials necessary for the student's participation in the trades program.

Musical instruments

82.3 (1) Despite section 82, but subject to section 82.4, a board may do the following in relation to a student described in subsection (2) of this section:

- (a) charge fees for the purchase or rental of a musical instrument for the student's personal use;
- (b) require the student to provide their own musical instrument.

(2) Subsection (1) applies to a student participating in, as part of an educational program,

- (a) a music class, course or program, or
- (b) a fine arts class, course or program with a music component.

International Baccalaureate

82.31 (1) In this section and section 178, "**International Baccalaureate program**" means an educational program based on a curriculum developed and standards set by the International Baccalaureate Organization, a registered extraprovincial non-share corporation as defined in section 167 of the *Societies Act*.

- (2) A board that offers an International Baccalaureate program must
- (a) make available sufficient instruction for students enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program to meet the general requirements for graduation, and
 - (b) continue to offer a standard educational program in the school district.
- (3) Despite section 82, but subject to section 82.4, a board may charge a student enrolled in an International Baccalaureate program fees relating to the direct costs incurred by the board in providing the International Baccalaureate program that are in addition to the costs of providing a standard educational program.
- (4) If a board that offers an International Baccalaureate program charges fees under subsection (3), the board must, on or before July 1 of each school year,
- (a) establish a schedule of fees to be charged under subsection (3), and
 - (b) make the schedule of fees available to the public.

Requirement for financial hardship policy

82.4 Sections 82 (3), 82.1 (4), 82.2, 82.3 and 82.31 (3) apply only to a board that has established policies and procedures to facilitate participation by students of school age ordinarily resident in British Columbia who would otherwise be excluded from the course, class or program because of financial hardship.

Financial assistance

- 83** (1) A board may
- (a) assist in paying the cost of transportation, board or lodging of a student, or
 - (b) subject to the orders of the minister, assist in paying the cost of transportation, board, lodging or tuition fees of a person attending an educational institution outside of British Columbia.
- (2) If a student is enrolled in an educational program that is delivered, in whole or in part, through online learning, the board may provide any financial assistance to the student that is authorized under an agreement under section 75 (4.1).

Insurance

- 84** (1) A board must maintain insurance in accordance with this Act and the regulations.
- (2) A board may maintain insurance, other than insurance referred to in subsection (1), that the board considers necessary.
- (3) Subject to the regulations, if the board maintains insurance, the board must be the named beneficiary of the insurance.

Power and capacity



AP 317

Student Fees

Background

The purpose of this procedure is to clarify when, and for what purpose, fees and deposits may be charged, and to ensure that fees and deposits do not become a barrier to participation in activities or programs because of financial hardship.

Procedures

Principals/Vice-Principals will ensure that the assigning and collection of fees and deposits conform with the following procedures:

Definitions

1. Curricular

Refers to instructional courses and/or programs authorized by the Ministry of Education and Child Care, Locally Developed or Board Authorized leading towards graduation as set out in the '[School Act](#)'.

2. Extra-Curricular

Refers to any school activity that is not included in the curricular offerings leading towards graduation (e.g. school events, clubs, sports clubs, student leadership activities).

3. Allowable Fees, and Field Trips

Fees may be charged for school special events, clubs, sports and other extra-curricular items and/or activities not regulated in the '[School Act](#)'.

3.1 Graduation Fees: The basic cost for graduation will be an amount to cover the cost of the convocation ceremony (e.g. gown and stole rental, keeper cap and tassel, folder, diploma and tickets to convocation/venue, tea/reception).

3.2 Parking Permits: Schools have the option of issuing parking permits to students to park their vehicles on school district property. The fee shall be for the right to park as well as for administrative expenses.

3.3 Student Activity Fee for Middle and Secondary Schools: The student activity fee covers costs such as student agendas, guest speakers, student identity cards, school events, student recognition, student leadership, locks and locker rentals.

Schools shall not charge for a student agenda if the agenda is to be used as a learning resource and/or for assessment purposes.

3.4 Field Trips:

- 3.4.1 Curricular:

- 3.4.1.1 Mandatory

- A field trip is deemed 'mandatory' when students are required to participate in order to meet specific course learning outcomes.

- If a classroom field trip is deemed mandatory, there must be no charge to the student.

- 3.4.1.2 Optional

- A field trip is deemed 'optional' when specific learning standards can be attained through either a field trip or an alternate learning opportunity.

- A fee may be charged for an optional field trip to cover admission and transportation costs.

Students who do not participate in an optional field trip will be provided with an alternate learning opportunity based on specific learning outcomes addressed in the field trip.

- 3.4.2 Extra-curricular Field Trips:

- Extra-curricular field trips are not evaluated as a formal part of an educational program and a fee may be charged.

3.5 Deposits and Rentals

The school may require students (including home schooled students) to pay a refundable deposit for "educational resource materials". Criteria used to determine the amount of the deposit should be specified at the time the deposit is required. Refunds will be adjusted for damages or for servicing the item upon return.

3.6 Textbooks and Workbooks: Refundable deposits may be requested for textbooks and workbooks. School-made workbooks cannot be charged to students.

3.7 Musical Instruments: Schools may request that parent(s)/guardian(s) provide a musical instrument. Schools may charge a deposit for an instrument loaned to a student by the school.

3.8 Graphing Calculators: Students may be given the options of buying their own, borrowing a school-provided graphing calculator, or using school-provided calculators during class time. Schools must make available as many graphing calculators as needed by students who do not wish to buy their own. Schools may collect a refundable deposit on loaned graphing calculators.

3.9 Technological Equipment: Deposits may be collected for the use of cameras, computers or other school equipment loaned to students by the school for use to complete coursework.

3.10 Laptop Computers – (One-to-One Program): Students/Parents may be given the options of purchasing their own laptop computer, leasing or leasing to own a laptop computer as per the District Lease Plan, or borrowing a laptop from the school. Schools may collect a refundable deposit on loaned laptop computers.

3.11 Personal Supplies and Equipment:

All school supply lists must be approved by the principal prior to being provided to parents. Involvement in school-authorized School Supply Purchase Programs (with either a commercial provider or by the school) must be completely optional and at the sole discretion of the parent/guardian.

Schools that opt to use a School Supply Purchase Program must do so on a strict cost recovery basis rounded to the closest \$0.05. This includes student planners if they are not used for instructional purposes. Parents must not be charged for student planners if they are used for instructional purposes.

Schools may not charge cooking fees (e.g. Kindergarten cooking programs) or fees for art materials for specialized art projects occurring during instructional time (e.g. Mother's Day art gifts).

Schools may charge for, or request that parent(s)/guardian(s) provide, the following personal supplies for students. The following list is not prescriptive; schools may adapt this list to their needs but may not add to it without permission of the Superintendent (or designate).

- 3.11.1 Art Supplies: felts, glue, paint shirt, pencil crayons, scissors, scrapbooks, sketch books, stencils for numbers and letters, wax crayons
- 3.11.2 Math Supplies: calculator (non-graphing), graphing paper, protractor and compass set
- 3.11.3 Music Supplies: band instrument, recorder, reeds
- 3.11.4 PE Supplies: gym bag (cloth with drawstring), runners (indoor, non-marking), shorts, socks, t-shirt

- 3.11.5 School Uniforms/Dress Coordinates: jackets, vests, ties, pants, shorts, skirts, shirts, blouses
- 3.11.6 Writing Supplies: backboards, binders, correction tape/whiteout, divider tabs, duotangs, dry-erase markers, erasers, exercise books, highlighters, index cards, Key Tab notebook, loose-leaf paper, markers, pencils, crayons, pencil box/case, pencil sharpener, pens, portfolio/report covers, post-it notes, reinforcements, and rulers
- 3.11.7 Reference Resources: computer data storage device, English and other language dictionaries, and thesaurus
- 3.11.8 Career / Trades Programs: protective eye wear, protective head gear, safety boots, tools for apprenticeship programs (CTC, ACE-IT, SSA)
- 3.11.9 Student Agendas: A fee may not be charged if the agenda is used for assessment purposes. A fee may be charged if the agenda is used for any other purpose.
- 3.11.10 Computer Supplies: Headphones, storage medium

3.12 Materials of Superior Quality: While a school may not charge 'blanket' course fees, a student may be required to pay for materials of superior quality (optional materials) used in the preparation of a project to meet a course requirement.

3.13 Applied Skills (Tech Ed., Business Ed., Home Ec.) and Fine Arts (Art, Music, Drama, Dance): A school must provide the basic ingredients/materials for class projects. Should a student choose to, he/she may use 'optional' materials to upgrade the project. For example, a student may use a finer grade of wood, or acrylic versus oil based paint.

3.14 Specialty Academies: Schools may charge a fee for students to participate in a Board approved academy. The Board will establish fees on an annual basis in consultation with the School Planning Council.

3.15 Summer School: Fees will be in accordance with the [School Act](#) and Ministry of Education and Child Care guidelines. Students of school age will not be charged course fees. A refundable deposit may be charged at the time of registration. Students who complete summer school will be issued a refund on the deposit.

3.16 Night School-Continuing Education: Fees may not be charged for courses leading to graduation for students of school age. Graduated adults will be charged a course fee except for courses in Language Arts 11/12, Mathematics 11/12 and Sciences 11/12.

3.17 Distributed Learning (Virtual School): Fees may not be charged for courses leading to graduation for students of school age. Graduated adults will be charged a course fee except for courses in Language Arts 11/12, Mathematics 11/12 and Sciences 11/12.

4. Application of Procedures

4.1 Annually, the Superintendent will establish a process for setting fees and deposits charged. This is to ensure consistency across the district.

4.2 The Principal in consultation with the School Planning Council and in accordance with district policy will recommend a schedule of school fees and deposits to the Superintendent.

4.3 The Superintendent will make a recommendation to the Board for approval.

4.4 The Board will approve school fee and deposit schedules prior to the next school year so that the information is available for publication by schools.

4.5 The Principal will ensure that school fee and deposit schedules are published and/or made available to students and parent(s)/guardian(s) prior to students selecting courses.

4.6 On an annual basis, each school will be required to submit a summary of fees collected and the related expenses. The report will be in a format defined by the Finance Department and include a detailed listing of the expenditures. This report would be completed for the following fees:

- i) Student school supplies
- ii) Student activity fees
- iii) Student planners
- iv) Other fees as may be identified by the Superintendent

Where a surplus occurs, the school would be expected to provide an explanation and/or a plan for its dispersal (including possible reimbursements).

5. Financial Hardship

Staff must ensure that no student is denied an opportunity to participate in educational programs or educational curricular activities based on financial hardship.

6. The option for waiving school fees for school programs, optional curricular field trips and other activities must be made known to parents. The principal must ensure the process for waiving a fee is fair and confidential.

(Last Revised: June 2016)

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