

[House Resolution 183](#) of the 2017 Regular Legislative Session requests the governing authorities of public schools and nonpublic schools that participate in the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence program to adopt policies that address the assessment, collection, and use of student fees.

The resolution states that:

- “The inability to pay fees should not prevent economically disadvantaged students from having access to a quality education whether through a traditional public school, a charter school, or a nonpublic school participating in the voucher program and these students should be given the same opportunities as other students.”
- “Parents of school children should be provided with clear information regarding fees charged to students, including the use of such fees and the process by which they may request a waiver based on economic hardship.”
- “School governing authorities should engage in an open and transparent process when assessing student fees and adopting policies relative to student fees and should meaningfully consult with parents.”

School Student Fee Policy

Every school system or school that charges student fees of any kind should publish on its website and include in its student handbook a clear policy on student fees that includes, at a minimum:

- descriptions of each student fee being charged,
- the dollar amount of each student fee,
- how each student fee will be collected and used,
- the deadline by which each student fee is due and the desired method of payment,
- the process whereby students and families may request an economic hardship waiver, and
- the criteria by which economic hardship waivers will be approved.

In drafting such policies, school systems and schools should meaningfully consult with parents.

Economic Hardship Waivers

The policy should include a reduction or waiver of fees for economically disadvantaged students and students whose families are experiencing economic hardships and are financially unable to pay them. Examples of families facing economic hardship include, but are not necessarily limited to, families receiving unemployment benefits or public assistance, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Medicaid; foster families caring for children in foster care; and families that are homeless.

Penalties for Failure to Pay

Students should not be denied or delayed admission nor denied access to any instructional activity due to failure to pay a fee. Report cards and other academic records cannot be withheld for failure to pay a fee, pursuant to state law ([R.S. 17:112\(C\)](#)).