

FAQ – Donations and Fees

Question	Answer
1. Classroom Supplies: Can we require students to have certain classroom supplies as they begin the year or semester with us?	Any supplies (including paper, pencils, protractors, novels, or workbooks) that are required for a class must be provided to students if they do not voluntarily bring them in as a donation. (E.C. 38118, 60070)
2. Student Planners: Can students be charged for academic planners?	If students are expected to have and use an academic planner they should be treated as a necessary school supply and provided for those students who do not wish to donate funds for their purchase. (E.C. 38118)
3. Science Labs: Can students be charged for science lab materials?	Donations on a voluntary basis can be accepted for science lab materials but required fees are not permissible. A fee waiver system does not make the fee allowable. A fee can be charged for eye safety devices, at a price not to exceed the direct cost. (E.C. 32033, 38118, 60070).
4. PE: What is permissible with regard to PE uniforms and PE locks?	If a PE uniform with school logo is required for all PE students, it must be provided as a necessary school supply. If students are required to have “standardized physical education apparel” of a particular color, but can purchase the apparel from another source, then a school uniform can be offered for purchase to students as an option. However, a student’s grade cannot be adversely affected based on failure to wear standardized apparel when the failure “arises from circumstances beyond the control of the student.” Students cannot be required to purchase locks, but can be required to pay for loss or damage beyond normal wear and tear. (E.C. 38118, 48904, 49066(c))
5. Athletic Transportation: Can athletes be charged a fee for transportation to athletic events?	The courts have determined that extra-curricular activities, including athletics, are educational in nature and an integral part of the educational program. Fees are therefore not permissible. (Hartzell)
6. Sports Spirit Packs: Are donations allowable for sports participation or for uniforms?	Donations are allowed but participation cannot be linked to funds raised. A requirement to raise or provide funds in order to participate is the same as requiring a fee, which is impermissible. (Hartzell)
7. Projects/Personal Property: Are fees allowed for personal property the student makes and wishes to keep, such as ceramic or woodshop projects?	A charge may be made for personal property from, for example, a ceramics, sewing, or woodshop class that the student chooses to take home. Such materials fees cannot be charged in advance and should not exceed the direct cost of the materials used and provided by the school. Students should not be charged for items which remain at school. (E.C. 17551)
8. Parking Permit Fees: Can a high school charge parking	A school can charge parking permit fees. It is one of the twenty permissible fees. (Vehicle Code 21113)

permit fees?	
9. ID / ASB Cards: Can a school charge students for ID or ASB cards?	A school cannot charge students for ID or ASB cards if they require them of all students. Requiring the purchase of an ID or ASB card as a prerequisite for participation in any curricular or extracurricular activity is prohibited as well. If an ID or ASB card is a voluntary option they are permissible. Replacement of lost cards can be charged a fee. (Hartzell, E.C. 19910-19911, 48904)
10. Fieldtrips: Can a fee be charged for a fieldtrip?	Fees for field trips and excursions in connection with courses of instruction or school-related social, educational, cultural, or athletic activities are permissible, as long as no student is prevented from making the fieldtrip or excursion because of a lack of sufficient funds. (E.C. 35330(b))
11. Lost or Damaged Books / Locks: Can students be charged a fee for replacing a lost or damaged book or other school issued supply?	Yes, students can be required to pay the replacement cost for District books or supplies that have been loaned to the student if the book or supply is lost, cut, or defaced. (E.C. 19910-19911, 48904)
12. Science Camps: Can a school continue to charge students for attendance at science camps?	A school may continue to charge for school camp programs like an elementary school science camp. A student cannot be denied the opportunity to participate for non-payment of the fee. (E.C. 35335)
13. Attendance at Games or Performances: Can an admission fee be charged for a sport or performing arts event?	A fee may be charged for a sporting or performing arts event that is not a required component of a course or school. A distinction is made between a participant and an observer/audience member. (Hartzell)
14. Duplication of student records: Can a school charge for reproduction of student records?	A school may charge for the actual cost of duplicating public records, student records, or a prospectus of the school curriculum. (Government Code 6253, E.C. 49091.14)
15. Caps and Gowns: Can a student be charged for the rental of graduation caps and gowns?	Students may be charged for the rental or lease of personal property needed for District purposes, such as caps and gowns for graduation ceremonies. (E.C. 38119)
16. PSAT/PLAN/AP Tests/SAT/ACT: Can students be charged to take a college readiness test such as the SAT?	Tests administered by third parties that are not required or associated with a grade in a course may be offered for a fee. The organizations that administer these tests generally have a waiver policy to provide access for all students. (Hartzell)
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