



Forest Ranch Charter School

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Board Policy – Student Fees, Deposits, and Other Charges

1. Purpose

- a. Forest Ranch Charter School is a free, public K-8 Charter School. The Governing Board recognizes that California law requires that a student enrolled in a public school shall not be required to pay a fee for participation in an educational activity.
- b. This policy is adopted by the Forest Ranch Charter School Governing Board with the explicit intent to comply with AB 1575, which states that “A pupil enrolled in a school shall not be required to pay any fee, deposit, or other charge not specifically authorized by law.”

2. Definitions

- a. An educational activity is defined as an activity offered by a school, school district, charter school or county office of education that constitutes an integral fundamental part of elementary and secondary education, including, but not limited to, curricular and extracurricular activities.
- b. A pupil fee is defined as a fee, deposit, or charge imposed on pupils, or a pupil’s parents or guardians, including, but not limited to:
 - i. A fee charged to a pupil as a condition for registering for school or classes, or as a condition for participation in a class or an extracurricular activity, regardless of whether the class or activity is elective or compulsory, or is for credit.
 - ii. A security deposit, or other payment, that a pupil is required to make to obtain a lock, locker, book, class apparatus, musical instrument, uniform, or other materials or equipment.
 - iii. A purchase that a pupil is required to make to obtain materials, supplies, equipment, or uniforms associated with an educational activity.

3. Declarations

- a. All supplies, materials, and equipment needed to participate in educational activities shall be provided to pupils free of charge.
- b. A fee waiver policy shall not make a pupil fee permissible.
- c. The School shall not establish a two-tiered educational system by requiring a minimum educational standard and also offering a second, higher educational standard which pupils may only obtain through payment of a fee or purchase of additional supplies that the School does not provide.
- d. The School shall not offer course credit or privileges related to educational activities in exchange for money or donations of goods or services from a pupil or

a pupil's parents or guardians. The School shall not remove course credit or privileges related to educational activities, or otherwise discriminate against a pupil, because the pupil's parents or guardians did not or will not provide money or donations of goods or services to the School.

4. Fundraising Activities

- a. Participation in fundraising activities which solicit donations for the benefit of the school is completely voluntary and will never be a requirement for participation in an educational activity.

5. Fees Authorized by Law

- a. The prohibition on pupil fees as defined above does not prohibit imposition of a fee, deposit, or other charge otherwise allowed by law. As a charter school, Forest Ranch Charter School is subject to the prohibition on pupil fees and fewer fees authorized by law apply to charter schools. As a charter school, the School may, but is not required to, charge the following fees:
 - i. Transportation – Fees for transportation to and from school, as long as:
 1. The fee does not exceed the statewide average nonsubsidized cost per pupil;
 2. There is a waiver provision based on financial need; and
 3. Fees are not charged to pupils with disabilities whose Individual Education Program (IEP) includes transportation as a related service necessary for them to receive a free, appropriate public education. (EC Section 39807.5(b), (d), and (f)).
 - ii. Food – Charges for food served to pupils, subject to free and reduced price meal program eligibility and other restrictions specified in law. (EC Sections 38082 and 38084).
 - iii. Field Trips:
 1. Fees for field trips and excursions in connection with courses of instruction or school-related social, educational, cultural, athletic, or school band activities so long as no pupil is prevented from making the field trip or excursion because of a lack of sufficient funds. (EC Section 35330(b)).

6. Complaints

- a. Forest Ranch Charter School shall make every effort to comply with laws and regulations regarding fees. Students, parents or guardians with a complaint regarding fees or charges imposed by the School are referred to our BP3040 Uniform Complaint Policy. This policy provides a formal process for expression and resolution of complaints.
- b. If, during the complaint review process delineated in BP3040 Uniform Complaint Policy, it is found that a complaint regarding a pupil fee or charge has merit, the

School shall reimburse the fee or charge to all affected pupils, parents, or guardians.

7. Adoption

- a. This board policy was initially reviewed and adopted by the Forest Ranch Charter School governing board on November 19, 2013.
- b. This board policy was recently reviewed and approved by the Forest Ranch Charter School governing board on May 25, 2022.
- c. The next annual review will occur on or before May 25, 2023.