

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 14, 2011

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee L. Cleary, Chair, Planning and Policy Committee  
Trustee M. Janz, Planning and Policy Committee  
Trustee C. Ripley, Planning and Policy Committee

SUBJECT: Review of Board Policy INB.BP - Instructional Fees

ORIGINATOR: T. Parker, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Bob Morter, Carol Symons

RECOMMENDATION

1. That revised Board Policy INB.BP - Instructional Fees be considered for the first time.
2. That revised Board Policy INB.BP - Instructional Fees be considered for the second time.

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**Background**

Board policy INB.BP - School Assessed Fees came into effect in 1996. This review of the policy arose not through any specific concerns with the policy, but rather that it was past due for review. The intention of the policy in the original form was and remains to ensure that students are not charged for instruction.

**Rationale**

The intention of the change to this policy is to remove possible confusion that may arise. The *School Act* has always provided for fees to be charged for specific materials. The existing policy could be interpreted to prohibit all fees as it states that education should be at “no direct cost to parents.” This belief would conflict with a number of other board policies which explicitly allow for charges to parents including such areas as student transportation and the provision of a lunch program.

The revised policy is intended to more accurately reflect the provisions of the *School Act* which allows for the use of fees in a limited set of circumstances.

The draft policy was posted on the district website for feedback from the public from April 4 to May 9, 2011. Twenty-nine responses were received. The majority of the responses were very positive; some felt the policy did not adequately protect families from the implementation of fees, feeling that the policy represents the slippery slope of families

paying greater fees for all courses. Concerns were also raised about circumstances where families were unable to pay fees.

Two changes were made to the draft policy in response to the public input.

The first change was the addition of the word “minimal”, to clearly demonstrate the intention of the Board that fees should be limited in scope. The second was the addition of a direct reference to the *School Act* as the authority that allows for fees to be charged for materials.

In summary, the Board Policy, Instructional Fees, as written reflects the Board’s desire to ensure that public education remains available to all students and families regardless of economic means.

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APPENDIX I Proposed Board Policy INB.BP – Instructional Fees

# Edmonton Public Schools Board Policies and Regulations

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CODE: INB.BP

TOPIC: ~~School Assessed~~ Instructional Fees

EFFECTIVE DATE:

ISSUE DATE:

REVIEW DATE:

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The Board believes that public schools should provide high quality ~~instruction~~ education, ~~including those in kindergarten, at no direct cost to parents.~~ Schools shall not charge fees for instruction but may charge minimal fees with respect to instructional supplies or materials in accordance with the *School Act*.

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Reference(s):

[INB.AR](#) - School Assessed Fees

[School Act Section 60.2.j – Power of boards](#)

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