



1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 Nord Country 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 pupil fee for participation in an educational activity.
- 1.2 This policy is adopted by the Nord Country 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.”

2.0 Definitions

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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:
 - 2.2.1 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.
 - 2.2.2 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.
 - 2.2.3 A purchase that a pupil is required to make to obtain materials, supplies, equipment, or uniforms associated with an educational activity.

3.0 Declarations

- 3.1 All supplies, materials, and equipment needed to participate in educational activities shall be provided to pupils free of charge.
- 3.2 A fee waiver policy shall not make a pupil fee permissible.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.

4.0 Fundraising Activities

- 4.1 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.

5.0 Fees Authorized by Law

- 5.1 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, Nord Country 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:
 - 5.1.1 Transportation – Fees for transportation to and from school, as long as:
 - 5.1.1.1 The fee does not exceed the statewide average nonsubsidized cost per pupil;
 - 5.1.1.2 There is a waiver provision based on financial need; and
 - 5.1.1.3 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)).
 - 5.1.2 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).
 - 5.1.3 Field Trips:
 - 5.1.3.1 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)).

6.0 Complaints

- 6.1 Nord Country 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 Nord Country School are referred to Nord Country School Complaint Procedures. These procedures provide both an informal and formal process for expression and resolution of complaints.
- 6.2 If, during the complaint review process it is found that a complaint regarding a pupil fee or charge has merit, the Charter School shall reimburse the fee or charge to all affected pupils, parents, or guardians.

7.0 Adoption and Review

- 7.1 Originally Adopted: 11/13/2013
- 7.2 Most Recent Review: 10/25/2023