

BULLIS CHARTER SCHOOL

SECTION: Business and Non-Instructional Operations

Title: Student Fees Policy

POLICY STATEMENTS

Bullis Charter School operates a free public charter school, and no student enrolled in Bullis Charter School shall be required to pay a student fee for participation in a Bullis Charter School educational activity unless specifically authorized by law.

DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy and pursuant to AB 1575, “educational activity” means any activity offered by Bullis Charter School that constitutes an integral fundamental part of a student’s education, including, but not limited to, curricular and extracurricular activities. “Educational activity” does *not* include: (a) transportation (bus) to and from school; (b) child care services for students whose parents cannot pick up their child immediately after school.

For purposes of this policy and pursuant to AB 1575, “student fee” means a fee, deposit, or other charge imposed on students, or a student’s parents or guardians, in violation of Section 49011 and Section 5 of Article IX of the California Constitution, which require educational activities to be provided free of charge to all students without regard to their families' ability or willingness to pay fees or request special waivers. Pursuant to Education Code section 49010, prohibited student fees include: (a) fees charged as a condition for registering for school or classes, or as a condition for participation in a class or any extracurricular activity, regardless of whether the class or activity is elective or compulsory, or is for credit; (b) a security deposit, or other payment, that a student is required to make to obtain a lock, locker, book, class apparatus, musical instrument, uniform, or other materials or equipment; (c) purchase that a pupil is required to make to obtain materials, supplies, equipment, or uniforms associated with an educational activity.

SPECIFIC STUDENT FEE PROVISIONS

1. All supplies, materials, and equipment needed for students to participate in Bullis Charter School’s educational activities shall be provided to students by the school free of charge.
2. Bullis Charter School does not use a fee waiver policy to make any student fee permissible.
3. Bullis Charter School does not have a “two-tier” educational system. Students who purchase additional supplies not provided free-of-charge by Bullis Charter School, or students who make voluntary donations to Bullis Charter School’s programs and activities, are not provided a higher educational standard than students who do not.
4. Bullis Charter School does not offer course credit or privileges related to educational activities in exchange for money or donations of goods or services from a student, and Bullis Charter School does not remove course credit or privileges related to educational activities, or otherwise discriminate against any student who does not or will not provide money or donations of goods or services to the school.
5. Bullis Charter School may, from time to time, solicit from students and parents of students, voluntary donations of funds or property or voluntary participation in fundraising activities, and may provide prizes or other recognition for students and parents of students who voluntarily participate in such fundraising activities.
6. Bullis Charter School may offer transportation (e.g., bus) to and from school for students, at a fee that is approximately equal to the actual cost to Bullis Charter School of such transportation. Transportation (e.g., bus) to and from school is not an “educational activity.”

7. Bullis Charter School may offer child care services for students whose parents cannot pick up their child immediately after school, and may charge a reasonable fee for such services. Child care is not an “educational activity.”
8. All students attending Bullis Charter School participate in field trips that are part of the school’s curriculum (“Program Field Trips”), which are provided to all students by the school free of charge. Bullis Charter School may solicit voluntary donations of funds or services from students, parents of students or others to help fund Program Field Trips, but all students may participate regardless of student or parent donation. No student shall be denied the opportunity to participate in Program Field Trips due to cost.
9. Students attending Bullis Charter School may choose to participate in additional optional field trips offered by the school that are *not* part of the curriculum (“Non-Program Field Trips”). Non-Program Field Trips are not mandatory, are not part of the school’s curriculum, and do not count toward course credit. Bullis Charter School may charge students and parents of students a reasonable fee for attendance at Non-Program Field Trips. Such attendance is entirely voluntary, recreational and is not an “educational activity.”
10. Bullis Charter School may charge students a reasonable fee for the replacement of lost, damaged or unreturned school supplies, such as school ID cards or library late return fees.
11. Bullis Charter School provides musical instruments and art supplies for enrichment courses to students free of charge. At the end of the course, students may be provided the option to purchase a musical instrument or art supply at a discounted price in order to continue practice at home. Such continued practice after the end of a course is not an “educational activity.”
12. Prior to student participation in school sports, Bullis Charter School may require parents to provide proof of a sports physical exam (pre-participation physical examination) to determine whether it is safe for a student to participate in a sport.
13. Bullis Charter School offers sports programs and extracurricular activities to all students free of charge. Bullis Charter School may solicit voluntary donations of funds or services from students and parents of students to help fund sports programs and extracurricular activities, but all students are permitted to participate, and provided necessary supplies, regardless of student or parent donation.
14. Bullis Charter School may charge students and parents of students a reasonable fee for optional attendance as a spectator at school-sponsored dances, “grad night”, festivals, athletic events, plays or musicals, or other performances. Such attendance is entirely recreational and is not an “educational activity.”
15. Bullis Charter School may allow students to purchase optional items including school seals or patches, yearbooks, school pictures, logo clothing, or other items not required for a student’s education.
16. Students and parents of students will be provided a copy of this policy at the start of each school year as part of Bullis Charter School’s Parent-Student Handbook, and is available on the school’s website.
17. Students, parents or guardians who believe they are being charged an impermissible student fee should contact the school Principal, and all complaints will be addressed pursuant to Bullis Charter School’s Uniform Complaint Policy set forth in the Parent-Student Handbook. In the event any complaint is found to have merit, Bullis Charter School will reimburse all affected students, parents and guardians.

Adopted: October 7, 2013