



Memorandum

Date: February 7, 2025
To: Finance and Planning Committee
From: Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Action Item: **2025/2026 School Fees Summary**

1.0 BACKGROUND

Annually, the Finance and Planning Committee requests a review of the Ministry of Education and Child Care School Fee Guidelines as well as a list of District school fees, by school.

2.0 INFORMATION STATEMENT

Under section 82(1) of the Ministry of Education and Child Care School Act (Appendix A), Boards of Education must provide, free of charge to school age students who are resident in British Columbia, instruction in an educational program sufficient to meet the general requirements for graduation and the educational resource materials necessary to participate in the educational program.

There are some exceptions: Boards of Education may charge fees for certain programs, such as specialty academies, international baccalaureate, and trades programs, as well as for musical instruments. Under section 82(3) of the Act (Appendix A), boards may also charge fees for “goods and services” (see Appendix B – School Regulation, section 1 for definition) such as school supplies (i.e. exercise books, paper, writing tools), and optional field trips or special events.

Any board that charges fees must have a financial hardship policy in place to help students who are in financial need. Appendix C outlines this policy.

3.0 SECRETARY-TREASURER/CFO’S COMMENTS

Currently, fees charged in Central Okanagan Public Schools are divided into four categories:

- a) **Standard Fees (Optional School Supply, Cultural, Student Activity Fees)**
 - i) School Supply Fee - all elementary schools offer a supply package that provides for any personal school supplies needed throughout the year. This fee is currently set at \$35/student however staff recommend an increase to \$40/student to offset increased supply costs. The fee has not been increased since July 1, 2019.
 - ii) Cultural Fee (\$10/student) - all elementary schools provide optional cultural performance opportunities made available through the schools for the benefit of students.

iii) Student Activity Fee (\$30/student) – all middle and secondary schools collect student activity fees to support a variety of opportunities and initiatives listed below.

- Cultural performances;
- Leadership (i.e. partner community support, school wide events);
- Athletics (i.e. reduce athletic fees to parents, replacement of team uniforms & equipment);
- Field studies busing costs.

b) **Transportation Fees** - to recover a portion of the cost to transport students to and from school as per Policy 470 – Transportation Services Management.

c) **Academy Fees** - to support academies at middle and secondary schools that have been approved as part of the substantive change process. These include sport and cultural academies as well as dual credit programs. These fees are outlined in the Standardized Student Fee Summary (Appendix D).

d) **Goods and Services Fees** - Vary by school depending upon the offerings. These include but are not limited to yearbooks, uniforms, field studies, and musical instrument rental and graduation ceremonies.

4.0 STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT: The Finance and Planning Committee recommends to the Board:

THAT: The Board of Education approve the school supply fee increase from \$35/student to \$40/student effective July 1, 2025 as presented at the February 12, 2025 Finance and Planning Committee meeting.

5.0 APPENDICES

- A. School Act, section 82 to 82.4
- B. School Regulation, section 1
- C. Regulation 425R - Student Fees, section 8
- D. Standardized Student Fee Summary - DRAFT