

Waiver of School Fees for McKinney-Vento Children and Youth



Information for School Personnel

McKinney-Vento children and youth qualify for a waiver of school fees. This is based on their categorical eligibility for the [National School Lunch Program](#). The Illinois State Board of Education defines “school fees” as “any monetary charge collected by a public school, public charter school, or public school district from a student or the parents or guardian of a student as a prerequisite for the student’s participation in any curricular extracurricular programs.” See [Student Registration and Enrollment Guidance](#), [Ill. Admin. Code Section 1.245](#) and [105 ILCS 5/10-20.13](#).

“School fees” include, but are not limited to:

1. Charges for textbooks and instructional materials
2. Charges and deposits for use of school property such as locks, towels, lab equipment
3. Charges for field trips made during or after school hours if the trip is a required or customary part of a class or extracurricular activity
4. Charges for uniforms or equipment related to sports or fine arts programs
5. Charges for supplies related to a particular class such as shop, home economics, lab, art
6. Graduation fees, such as caps and gowns
7. School records fees
8. School health services fees
9. Driver education fees

The cost of regular school supplies is not considered a “school fee.” However, many schools have resources to help children and youth obtain supplies.

“School fees” do not include library fines; charges for class rings; yearbooks; diploma covers or similar items; charges for optional travel undertaken by a school club or group of students outside of school hours; and admission charges for dances, athletic events, or other social events.

Please note: Schools may not engage in discrimination or punishment of any kind against a student because the student’s parents or guardians are unable to purchase required textbooks or instructional materials or to pay required fees. This includes, but is not limited to, the lowering of grades; exclusion from classes; or withholding of student records, transcripts, or a diploma. Please see Q-8 of ISBE’s [Student Registration and Enrollment Guidance](#) and [105 ILCS 5/28-19.2\(a\)](#) for more information.