



Student Fees AB 1575

In order to be fully compliant with Assembly Bill 1575 (2012), River Charter Schools has adopted the following policies and procedures regarding student fees.

1. Students enrolled in River Charter Schools “RCS” shall not be required to pay a “pupil fee” for participation in an “educational activity.”
2. All supplies, materials, and equipment needed to participate in educational activities shall be provided to pupils free of charge.
3. RCS does not use a “fee waiver” policy to make pupil fees permissible.
4. RCS’ offering of transportation to and from school is not an educational activity.
5. RCS’ offering of an after school program is designed to help parents who cannot pick up their child immediately after school and is not an educational activity.
6. RCS does not intend to establish a two-tier educational system by requiring a minimal educational standard and also offering a second higher educational standard that pupils may only obtain through payment of a fee or purchase of additional supplies that the school does not provide.
7. RCS does not offer course or credit privileges related to educational activities in exchange for money or donations of goods or services from a pupil or the pupil’s parents or guardians, nor shall the school remove such credit or privileges for failure to make a donation.
8. Voluntary donations of funds or property or participation in fundraising activities are encouraged and allowed, but such fundraising is **COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY**.
9. RCS does not require the purchase of any uniform or logoed articles of clothing.
10. Entirely optional logoed articles of clothing may require payment of a fee.
11. All fees allowed under Ed Code section 48904 regarding damaged or unreturned items remain allowed under this policy. Specifically, books or other materials provided free of charge to students must be replaced if lost or damaged. It is RCS’s policy that any student or family who cannot afford to replace the item shall be eligible for a scholarship to replace the item free of charge in exchange for additional school service on the part of the student and/or parent. Given the nature of RCS as a public charter school of choice, in which a parent enrolls their child partly with the intent to instill a sense of personal responsibility in the child, RCS believes that when a student loses or damages an item, the school’s responsibility to instill that responsibility includes an obligation to repay the school for that item in the form of cash or services equivalent to the value of the lost or damaged item(s) at a rate of \$10 per hour of service.

12. Purely recreational activities may be subject to mandatory fees (attendance at optional weekend outdoor education, leadership development, or athletic events).
13. RCS will not discriminate in any way based on whether a pupil, parents, or guardians contribute time or money to the school.
14. RCS allows the purchase of optional items such as yearbooks, school pictures, etc. and does not consider them as required fees.
15. RCS does ask families to donate service hours to the school (30 hours for one child and 40 hours for 2 or more). RCS provides many ways parents can get credit for hours, including attendance at parent meetings, assisting in the classroom, family events, etc. If a family has legitimate reasons they cannot provide some or all of those hours, the school will not discriminate against those families in the enrollment process for the following school year or any other way. However, if a family philosophically does not want to contribute service hours, RCS encourages that family to consider why they are enrolling their child in a school of choice for which parental service and involvement is an integral component of the model's success. For parents who desire to contribute but do not have the time to do so, RCS welcomes voluntary financial contributions of any amount as a sign of commitment to and support of the Charter School. In accordance with Education Code Sections 49011 and 47605(d)(2)(B)(iv), admission preferences do not require mandatory parental volunteer hours as a criterion for admission or continued enrollment.
16. Parents or guardians who believe that they are being charged a fee for anything they believe is illegal under AB1575 should contact the Superintendent, Steve Lewis at 916-744-1200 or slewis@rivercharterschools.org immediately to file a complaint under RCS Uniform Complaint procedures.
17. Complaints will be investigated and resolved within 60 days of receipt of the complaint. If the complaint is resolved pursuant to an investigation, the Superintendent shall issue a written decision stating the findings of fact and the reasons for the disposition of the complaint.
18. If a complaint is found to have merit, the school will reimburse all affected pupils, parent, or guardians.
19. If a complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the Superintendent of RCS, the complainant may appeal to the River Charter Schools Board President directly.
20. This policy will be published on the school's web site.

River Charter Schools Complaint Form

(Uniform Complaint Procedures for complaints filed under California Education Code Section 49013)

Anyone may use this form to file a complaint regarding a “pupil fee” that is required for participation in an educational activity offered by a California public school, as defined in California Education Code Section 49010. After completing this form, file it with the RCS Superintendent.

Do you want to receive a copy of the written response to your complaint?

Yes, I request a copy of the written response to my complaint.

Name: _____ Address: _____

City & Zip Code: _____ Phone Number (optional): _____

No, I do not request a copy of the written response. I am filing this complaint anonymously.

I request immediate action to address the imposition of the following pupil fees: Please check all that apply and provide supporting details (attach additional pages if needed).

(Please note that the remedy must be provided to all affected pupils, parents, and guardians per California Education Code Section 49013.)

I. Fees Charged for Registration or Participation:

A fee was charged as a condition for registration for school or classes

A fee was charged as a condition for participation in a class or extracurricular activity (whether or not the activity or class is compulsory or elective)

Description of the fee: include (1) the class or extracurricular activity for which the registration or participation fee was charged, (2) details regarding how the fee requirement was communicated, and (3) the total amount of the fee.

II. Security Deposits or Other Payments for Materials or Equipment:

A security deposit or other payment was required to obtain materials or equipment, including but not limited to a book, class apparatus, musical instrument, etc.

Description of the payment: include (1) the class or extracurricular activity, (2) details regarding how the security deposit or other payment was communicated, (3) the item of equipment or material for which a deposit or payment was required, and (4) the total amount of the deposit or payment.

Board Policy # 19-02

Adopted/Ratified: January 23, 2017

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Required Purchases for Educational Activities:

____ A purchase was required to obtain materials, supplies, equipment or uniforms associated with an educational activity.

Description of the payment: include (1) the class or extracurricular activity, (2) details regarding how the requirement to purchase the materials, supplies equipment or uniform was communicated, (3) the item required to be purchased, and (4) the total amount of the purchase.

Miscellaneous/Other Fees or Charges:

____ The school is violating the requirements Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 49010) of Chapter 6 of Part 27 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the California Education Code, regarding prohibition of pupil fees for participation in educational activities.

Description with as much detail as possible:

IMPORTANT: I am mailing / hand-delivering (circle one) this form on _____
(date) to Superintendent (name) at

River Charter Schools, P.O. Box 303 or 36230 N. School St. Clarksburg, CA 95612

Please make and keep a copy of this completed form for your records