

# Issue: Charging fees to cover the gap in funding

As of Aug. 31, 2016



No child will be denied access to education or services because of an inability to pay fees.

- Parents may apply for fee waivers online or in person.
- Parents may also declare a hardship to their principal.

Fees are an unfortunate reality in the CBE.

We calculate our fees on a cost recovery basis. They are charged to cover the gap between the cost of programs and services and the funding provided to us by the government.

CBE centrally manages three fees paid by parents: instructional supplies and materials (ISM), transportation and noon supervision. We also provide parents with two options to apply to have their fees waived.

All revenue from Alberta Education that is designated for ISM and transportation is fully applied to the cost of these services. Our fee revenue covers the gap between provincial funding and actual program costs, including the cost of covering waivers and bad debts. It does not enhance or otherwise benefit the core instructional funding. Noon supervision is an optional service that is not provincially funded, therefore parents pay the actual program costs.

## Instructional supplies and materials (ISM) fees

- ISM fees are used for supplies and materials deemed necessary for instruction such as textbooks and workbooks; novels and other written materials; as well as paper and photocopying. Our bulk purchasing of these supplies brings better value for all families.

### 2016-17 ISM fees

Kindergarten	\$15
Full-Day Kindergarten*	
& Grades 1-6	\$30
Grades 7-9	\$137
Grades 10-12	\$152
* where offered	

## Noon supervision fees

- Noon supervision fees cover the costs for supervision of students in Grades 1-6 and full-day kindergarten.

### 2016-17 Noon Supervision fees

Four day	\$255
Four/five day	\$275
Five day	\$285

## Other fees

Some schools may charge fees not listed here. These may include: musical instrument rental fees to maintain and care for instrument inventories, and fees to cover the cost of off-site trips. These fees do not supplement the core instructional funding and are only charged to those students using the service or attending the trip.





Fee revenue makes up four per cent of our entire budget.

A loss of fee revenue could result in bigger classrooms, fewer teachers, and fewer supports for students.

Fee revenue means that educational funding stays in the classroom.

[learn more |](#)  
[visit our website at cbe.ab.ca](#)

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## Transportation fees

- Transportation fees are charged to help close the gap between the cost of the service we provide and the funding we receive.

## 2016-17 transportation service levels

We heard from parents that they wanted shorter travel distances to a yellow school bus stop. Our current CBE guidelines for yellow school bus transportation are that elementary students will access a stop within 1.6 km of their homes and middle school/junior high students will access a stop within 1.8 km of their homes. This year, we anticipate that most students in a regular program and the larger alternative programs will have a stop within 1000 m from home. We can do this because of the density of students within a community accessing these schools and programs. Some exceptions may occur due to the geographic location of some student addresses.

Students in some non-language alternative programs will return to the use of congregated stops where it is not feasible financially to do otherwise. In most cases, these students will return to congregated stops, similar to service offered in the 2014-15 school year. Congregated stops serve students at a distance over the walk guideline. They are only used when there are very low numbers of riders from a community to a school and could be up to 5 km from their homes. The longest distances to a yellow school bus stop will be for students travelling across the city to a program at a single site. Their travel distance to the stop will vary based on the number of students and their locations in relation to the school they attend.

We will continue to explore opportunities for moving more Grade 7-9 students to Calgary Transit, where feasible. The majority of Grades 10-12 students will continue to access Calgary Transit on existing routes or dedicated buses. Mid-day kindergarten service will also continue.

- More students in Grades 6-9 will use Calgary Transit instead of a yellow school bus. Parents were notified in June if this change impacted their child, where possible.
- The annual transportation fee all students riding a yellow school bus, including conditional riders, is \$335.