

**BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 59
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, July 10, 2023 6:00 PM**

Mission Statement

"The mission of Bennington Public Schools is to provide educational opportunities in a safe, caring environment that will prepare all students to meet the challenges of the future."

- I. Call Hearing to Order

- II. Review of the amount of money collected from students pursuant to, and the use of waivers provided in, the student fee policies of the District for the 2023-2024 school year.
- III. Hold Public Hearing to discuss, consider, and receive input on the Student Fee Policy. The public will be given the opportunity to present information and opinions on a proposed Student Fee Policy.
- IV. Hold Public Hearing to discuss, consider, and receive input on the Parental Involvement Policy. The public will be given the opportunity to present information and opinions on the Parental Involvement Policy.
- V. Hold Public Hearing to discuss, consider, and receive input on the Bullying Policy. The public will be given the opportunity to present information and opinions on the Bullying Policy.

- VI. Adjourn

NOTICE: COPY OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT: The Board of Education makes available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. The Act is posted on the wall of the Board room.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO SPEAK DURING PUBLIC FORUM: Getting Started: When it is your turn to speak during the public forum portion of the agenda, please come forward to the table situated immediately in front of the Board, sign your name and address on the sign-in sheet and state your name to the Board of Education. Time Limit: You may speak only one time and must limit comments to 5 minutes or less. Personnel or Student Topic: If you are planning to speak about a personnel or student matter involving an individual, please understand that our policies require that such concerns initially be directed to the administration for consideration. Board members will generally not respond to any questions you ask or comments you may make about individual staff members or students. You are cautioned that slanderous comments are not protected just because they are made at the Board meeting. General Rules: Please remember that this is a public meeting for the conduct of business of the Board of Education. Offensive language, personal attacks and hostile conduct will not be tolerated.

BY: BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENT FEES 2023-2024

Elementary Policies – Student Fees

PG. 31

Nutrition Services

Lunch		
School	Daily Price	Weekly Price
Elementary	\$2.65	\$13.25
Middle	\$2.95	\$14.75
High	\$3.00	\$15.00
Reduced	\$0.34	\$2.00
Adult	\$4.30	\$21.50
Milk	\$0.55	\$2.75

PG. 31

Snack Milk Rates

Semester Milk (K-5)	\$48.40 per semester
Yearly Milk	\$96.80 per year

Milk can be purchased for snack by semester at \$48.40 per semester. Semester milk cost is not included in your family meal account. Snack milk money may only be purchased by semester or quarter. Daily snack milk money will not be accepted. Only exact semester or quarter amounts can be sent to the elementary office. Milk is also available to be purchased by the carton during the lunch period. Juice is also available for those with milk allergies.

PG. 32

Free and Reduced Meals

Free and reduced-cost breakfasts and lunches are provided for those who qualify. Application forms are available online at www.benningtonschools.org. We encourage families to apply. Students qualifying for such programs help the school receive additional federal grants to support reading. Information about students qualifying for a free or reduced lunch is kept highly confidential in the office of the Superintendent.

Activity Admission Prices

Activity passes for regular season home activities may be purchased in the secondary office of the Bennington Public Schools. Prices for admission/passes are as follows:

Varsity Admission

Student	\$5.00
Adult	\$7.00

Non-Varsity Admission

Student	\$1.00
Adult	\$3.00

Passes

Student Pass	\$35.00
Adult Pass	\$70.00
Family Pass	\$160.00

** Freshman & JV games held in conjunction with Varsity contests will use the \$7/\$5 pricing.

** BHS Invitationals (Track & Wrestling) are subject to the EMC Tournament price of \$6 for students & \$8 for adults.

** Activity passes are not honored for EMC and District tournament games.

Elementary students who attend secondary activities MUST attend with and be under the direct supervision of an adult throughout the activity. Students will not be admitted without a parent/adult supervisor attending the event. Good sports are persons who are fair with others and who are accepting when things go wrong or when they can't have their way. They take the bad, as well as the good with a smile.

Transportation Services

The Bennington Public Schools will provide free transportation to and from school at designated pick up, drop off or stopping points, at such times and according to such routes as determined by the Bennington Public Schools from time to time for resident students who live more than four miles from the school house they attend. Transportation may also be provided for school activities as determined by the Bennington School from time to time.

Transportation may also be provided to resident students who live less than four miles from the schoolhouse they attend on a space available basis at a cost of \$175.00 per semester per student (\$350 maximum per semester per family). Payments may be made by the month, by the semester, or annually.

The Bennington Public Schools may end any or all transportation services, which may be provided at any time if it is determined to be in its best interests.

Transportation fees assessed by the Bennington Public Schools may be reduced for children eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act (or extenuating circumstances) upon requests.

If approved, the fee will be 25% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for free lunches or breakfasts and 50% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for reduced-price lunches or breakfasts.

Applications for reduction of school transportation fees will be submitted, in writing, to the Director of Transportation, accompanied by sufficient documentation to establish that the child is eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act.

PG. 40

Student Fees Policy

The District’s general policy is to provide for the free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution and state and federal law. This generally means that the District’s policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students.

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children, which extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents/guardians have historically contributed to the District’s efforts to provide such activities, programs, and services. The District’s general policy is to continue to encourage and, to the extent permitted by law, to require such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines and policies. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations, which may be adopted from time to time. The Policy includes Table 1, provided on page 35 40, which provides further specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the 2016-2017 2023-2024 school year. Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

Table 1

Additional Specification of Required Materials and Fees

Program	General Description of Fee or Material	\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required
Physical Education Classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Tennis shoes and white socks, running shorts, T-shirt.

Art Classes and Special Projects or Events	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged.
Music-Optional Band Courses	Musical instruments	Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, drum sticks, lyres, flip folders, slide grease, reed guards, cleaning swabs, mouthpiece brushes, pad savers, ligatures, and a "gig bag", etc.) Limited instruments available for use by any student.
Classroom Supplies	General supplies, such as writing instruments (pens, pencils, crayons, markers), notebooks, etc.	None--necessary classroom supplies will be made available by the school. Students will be responsible for the replacement cost of damaged or lost supplies. Students are encouraged but not required to bring items from class supply lists.
Field Trips	Transportation and admission costs of field trips	None--costs of school sponsored, class-related field trips will be paid for by the school. Parents may be encouraged but not required to pay for field trip costs of up to \$5.00 per student for each field trip to defray costs. (With administrative approval, the requested donation may be up to \$100.00 for special field trips). Meals on field trips will be at the expense of the student. Sack lunches will be provided for all students by request. Regular pricing will apply.
Summer School Courses	Classes offered during the summer, or at night, if any	\$50 to \$200 per class.
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge).	Ten cents (.10) per page when charges apply.

Textbook/Library Book Fines	Loss or damage to District textbooks	Books lost or damaged beyond repair-full value of replacement \$10 to \$15 broken bindings
-----------------------------	--------------------------------------	---

Middle School Policies – Student Fees

The activity and transportation fees are the same for all students within Bennington Public Schools. See elementary above.

PG. 62

Student Fees Policy

The District’s general policy is to provide for the free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution and state and federal law. This generally means that the District’s policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students.

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children, which extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents/guardians have historically contributed to the District’s efforts to provide such activities, programs, and services. The District’s general policy is to continue to encourage and, to the extent permitted by law, to require such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines and policies. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations, which may be adopted from time to time. The Policy includes Table 1, which provides further specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the 2019-2020 2023-2024 school year. Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

Table 1

Middle School Program	General Description of Fee or Material	\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required
General	Misuse of School Equipment and Property	The Student and Parent/guardian will be Responsible for Replacement Cost. Cost will vary.
General Supplies for Classroom	Classroom Supplies, Pens, Pencils, Notebooks and other optional supplies for a minimum of 6 academic classes	Cost will vary according to the number of items purchased.

Physical Education Classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire) Locks	Tennis shoes, socks, running shorts, and T-shirt. Locks - \$5 (if lost)
Industrial Technology/Art, special projects, science classes	Costs above standard assigned project. Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire) Goggles – 1 pair provided per year. If lost or damaged students are required to purchase a new pair.	Fees will vary according to the size of student project. Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged; protective clothing; goggles.
Family Consumer Science	Cost above standard assigned project	Fees will vary according to the size of student project.
Music-Optional band courses	Musical Instruments	Musical Instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.) Limited instruments available for use by all students.
Advanced math or science classes	Specialized calculators	Some calculators will be available at school. If lost or damaged a replacement fee will be assessed at the rate paid by the school. Students are encouraged but not required to purchase such equipment for their personal use.
All Curriculum Areas	Field Trips Meals	Sack lunches will be provided for all students at no cost. If student and parent/guardian choose other arrangements they will be responsible for cost. Costs will vary. Sack lunches will be provided for all students by request. Regular pricing will apply.
School Meals		Breakfast - \$1.80 Adult Breakfast - \$2.65 Lunch - \$2.95 Adult Lunch - \$4.30 Milk - \$0.55 Prices are maximums based on one meal per day, will vary depending on the number of meals or items purchased by the student, and may be adjusted during the year.
End of the year lost or damage books	Damage fee or replacement cost	Fees and fines up to \$25.00 for damaged books. Lost or ruined

		books are charged the replacement cost up to \$100.
College entrance tests and preparation	Prep program and tests	Costs of college entrance tests prep courses are determined by the testing companies.
Yearbook - optional	School Book	Not to exceed \$60 per book.
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge).	Ten cents (.10) per page when charges apply.
1 to 1 Technology	Damage or replacement costs	Costs will vary between \$5 and \$20 with cooperative loss program, and between \$40 and \$100 without cooperative loss program. Total replacement will be \$200.
Extracurricular and other programs	General Description of Fee or Material	\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required
Admission	Spectator fees for admission to events	Students may purchase an activity card for \$35 per year. Conference Tournaments , District and State events hosted by the school: cost to be set by NSAA/ EMC .
Physicals	NSAA required athletic physicals	Cost varies – payable directly from student/parent to physician.
Football	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Volleyball	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Cross Country	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Boys' and Girls' Basketball	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Wrestling	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Boys' and Girls' Track	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
All Athletic Activities	Medically Prescribed and other optional braces	Cost will vary
Instrumental Music	Reeds and other consumables, Instrument and other optional equipment	Costs will vary according to instrument
Vocal Music	Shoes and performance outfits	Costs will vary
Student Senate	State and national dues and activities	Currently no dues required
All Activities	Camps or other optional activities outside of the school year.	Costs will vary according to activity.

All Activities	Meal Costs for Overnight Events	The School will provide per meal stipend. If students choose meals beyond the stipend, they will be responsible for additional costs.
Camps and clinics	Registration and other costs of camps and clinics	Students are responsible for costs and equipment
Clubs	Clubs are considered extra-curricular and may require supplies, clothing or fees for special events	Cost will vary according to activity
Social & Recognition Activities		
School dances	School/Grade Level	Not to exceed \$15 per dance
Speech/Drama	Admission to events	Not to exceed \$15 per performance.
Picture packets	Optional – pictures are taken for the school yearbook	Students may purchase packets as desired and pay directly to the photo company
Trips; School Sponsored and Non-School Sponsored	Transportation, lodging, meals, admission to events, etc.	<p>Costs of school sponsored, class-related field trips will be paid for by the school. Parents may be encouraged but not required to pay for field trip costs of up to \$5.00 per student for each field trip to defray costs. (With administrative approval, the requested donation may be up to \$100.00 for special field trips). Meals on field trips will be at the expense of the student. School lunches will be provided as needed for free-reduced lunch eligible students.</p> <p>Students are responsible for costs of school sponsored trips where the trip is an extra-curricular activity. The maximum cost of such trips will be \$2,000 per student. If the trip is not school sponsored, the costs of the trip are not subject to this policy and no fee waivers will apply. A trip is not school sponsored if: it is not supervised or administered by the school, attendance on the trip does not count towards graduation credit or grade advancement, and participation on the trip is voluntary for students.</p>

High School Policies – Student Fees

The activity and transportation fees are the same for all students within Bennington Public Schools. See elementary above.

PG. 60

Student Fees Policy

The District's general policy is to provide for the free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution and state and federal law. This generally means that the District's policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff, facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students.

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children which extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents have historically contributed to the District's efforts to provide such activities, programs, and services. The District's general policy is to continue to encourage and, to the extent permitted by law, to require such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines and policies. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations which may be adopted from time to time. The Policy includes Appendix "I," which provides further specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the 2023-2024 school year. Parents, guardians, and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

Bennington High School **Fee List**

Secondary Program	General Description of Fee or Material	\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required
General	Misuse of School Equipment and Property	The Student and Parent/guardian will be Responsible for Replacement Cost. Cost will vary
General Supplies for Classroom	Classroom Supplies, Pens, Pencils, Notebooks and other optional supplies for a minimum of 6 academic classes.	Cost will vary according to number of items purchased.

Physical Education Classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire) Locks	Tennis shoes, socks, running shorts, and T-shirt. Locks - \$5
Industrial Technology/Art, special projects, science classes	Costs above standard assigned project. Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire) Goggles – 1 pair provided per year. If lost or damaged students are required to purchase a new pair.	Fees will vary according to the size of student project. Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged; protective clothing; goggles
Family Consumer Science	Cost above standard assigned project	Fees will vary according to the size of student project.
Music-Optional band courses	Musical Instruments	Musical Instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.) Limited instruments available for use by all students
Advanced math or science classes	Specialized calculators	Some calculators will be available at school. If lost or damaged a replacement fee will be assessed at the rate paid by the school. Students are encouraged but not required to purchase such equipment for their personal use.
All Curriculum Areas	Field Trips Meals	Sack lunches will be provided for all students at no cost. If student and parent/guardian choose other arrangements they will be responsible for cost. Costs will vary
Post-Secondary education classes	Tuition and fees for college courses taken for credit	None – any post-secondary education costs are to be paid directly by students enrolled.
School Meals		Breakfast - \$1.90 Lunch - \$3.00 Milk - \$0.55 Prices are maximums based on one meal per day, will vary depending on the number of meals or items purchased by the student, and may be adjusted during the year.

End of the year: lost of damage books	Damage fee or replacement cost	Fees and fines up to \$5.00 for damaged books. Lost or ruined books are charged the replacement cost up to \$100.
College entrance tests and preparation	Prep program and tests	Costs of college entrance tests prep courses are determined by the testing companies.
Summer school courses	Classes offered during the summer or at night	Drivers education classes are determined by ESU#3 - \$350 Summer school - \$100 per class
Yearbook - optional	School Book	\$60 minimum
Parking Lot	Unauthorized parking	\$5-\$10 fine and/or towed vehicle or loss of parking privileges
All Curriculum Areas	Textbook Damage or loss	Cost will vary and a schedule of costs is included in Student Handbook.
Extracurricular and other programs	General Description of Fee or Material	\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required
Admission	Spectator fees for admission to events	Students may purchase an activity card for \$35 per year. Conference Tournaments, District and State events hosted by the school: cost to be set by NSAA/EMC
Physicals	NSAA required athletic physicals	Cost varies – payable directly from student/parent to physician.
Football	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Volleyball	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Softball	Shoes, Gloves and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Baseball	Shoes, Gloves and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Cross Country	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Boys' and Girls' Basketball	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Wrestling	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Boys' and Girls' Track	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Boys' and Girls' Golf	Shoes, Clubs, Balls and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Boys' and Girls' Soccer	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary

All Athletic Activities	Medically Prescribed and other optional braces	Cost will vary
Instrumental Music	Reeds and other consumables	Costs will vary according to instrument
Instrumental Music	Instrument and other optional equipment	Costs will vary
Vocal Music	Students in Varsity Choir will be required to pay a fee for the use of Choir Robes; Shoes and Show Choir Outfit	Costs will vary
Cheerleaders	Uniform and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Dance Team	Performance Outfit, Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
National Honor Society	State and national dues and activities	Currently no dues required.
Student council	State and national dues and activities	Currently no dues required
FBLA	State and national dues and activities	Costs will vary due to membership & activity.
Foreign Language Clubs	State and national dues and activities	Currently no dues required
Skills USA	State and national dues and activities	Costs will vary due to membership & activity.
All Activities	Camps or other optional activities outside of the school year.	Costs will vary according to activity.
All Activities	Meal Costs for Overnight Events	The School will provide per meal stipend as set by the AD. If students choose meals beyond the stipend, they will be responsible for additional costs.
Camps and clinics	Registration and other costs of camps and clinics	Students are responsible for costs and equipment
Marching Band/Musical groups	Equipment and attire	Students will be responsible for possible uniform rental and cleaning fee up to \$50
Social & Recognition Activities	General Description of Fee or Material	\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required
School dances	Homecoming / Prom	Not to exceed \$50 per ticket. Outside date / late ticket not to exceed \$75.

Musical and Play Production	Admission to events	Not to exceed \$25 per performance.
Picture packets	Optional – pictures are taken for the school yearbook	Students may purchase packets as desired and pay directly to the photo company
Trips	Transportation, lodging, meals, admission to events, etc.	Students are responsible for costs of school sponsored trips where the trip is an extra-curricular activity. The maximum cost of such trips will be \$2,000 per student. If the trip is not school sponsored, the costs of the trip are not subject to this policy and no fee waivers will apply. A trip is not school sponsored if: it is not supervised or administered by the school, attendance on the trip does count towards graduation credit or grade advancement, and participation on the trip is voluntary for students.
Reproduction of Records	Video Redacted	Costs will vary due to requests.

PG 69

Fees and Cooperative Loss Agreement

Families who would like to have take-home privileges for their students’ Chromebooks may pay an annual, non-refundable fee of \$20. This fee provides for an 80% discount on up to 4 repairs that must be conducted on the student’s Chromebook during the school year.

After 4 repairs in one school year, families will be responsible for 100% of the repair cost. Families who choose not to participate in the cooperative loss program will be responsible for the full cost of the repair each time.

With or without the cooperative loss agreement, damage that results in a complete loss of the Chromebook will result in a damage bill for the full replacement cost of the device.

The following table lists the costs for each event. Note that parts availability and pricing are subject to change. The information provided is accurate as of the most recent edition of this handbook.

Damage Type	With Cooperative Loss	Without Cooperative Loss
Broken Screen	\$5	\$40
Broken Chassis	\$20	\$100
Lost/broken Power Supply	\$5	\$40

Keyboard Replacement	\$20	\$100
Total Loss	\$200	\$200

Repairs due to defects in workmanship or warranty service will be facilitated by the Technology Department.