

Student Fees Hearing Meeting  
Monday, July 21, 2025 7:25 PM Central

Elementary School Conference Room  
550 7th Street  
Syracuse, NE 68446-0520

Barry Janssen: Present  
Tyler Kreifels: Present  
Justin Stark: Present  
Amy Wemhoff: Present  
Brienne Wilhelm: Present  
Ed Zastera: Present

{{Name: Agenda Item Name}}

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Open Meetings Act posted
3. Publication of Meeting
4. Review Student Fees- Policy 5416
5. Review of Fees Collected from Students and Public Hearing to Discuss, Consider, and Receive Input on a Proposed Student Fees Policy
6. Adjournment Adjourn. This motion, made by Ed Zastera and seconded by Amy Wemhoff, Carried. Barry Janssen: Yea, Tyler Kreifels: Yea, Justin Stark: Yea, Amy Wemhoff: Yea, Brienne Wilhelm: Yea, Ed Zastera: Yea Yea: 6, Nay: 0

## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of New Jersey, County of Burlington, ss:

I, Laquansay Nickson Watkins, of lawful age, being duly sworn upon oath depose and say that I am an agent of Column Software, PBC, duly appointed and authorized agent of the Publisher of Syracuse Journal Democrat, a publication that is a "legal newspaper" as that phrase is defined for the city of Nebraska City, for the County of Otoe, in the state of Nebraska, that this affidavit is Page 1 of 1 with the full text of the sworn-to notice set forth on the pages that follow, and that the attachment hereto contains the correct copy of what was published in said legal newspaper in consecutive issues on the following dates.

**Publication Dates:**

- Jul 11, 2025

**Notice ID:** eHwhjx10rdNe5ksMtBNN

**Notice Name:** Student Fees Hearing 07\_21\_25

**Publication Fee:** \$6.45

*Laquansay Nickson Watkins*

Agent

**VERIFICATION**

State of New Jersey  
County of Burlington

Signed or attested before me on this: 07/11/2025



Notary Public

Notarized remotely online using communication technology via Proof.

<p>LIZA ORTIZ NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF NEW JERSEY My Commission Expires November 27, 2028</p>
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**MEETING NOTICE**

School District #27 Board of Education will hold its Student Fees Hearing Monday, July 21, 2025 at 7:25 pm in the Elementary School Conference Room. A continually current agenda is available for public inspection at the Superintendent's office.

Published in the Syracuse Journal Democrat on July 11, 2025.

3609450 ZNEZ

StudentsStudent Fees Policy

The Board of Education of Syracuse Dunbar Avoca Public Schools adopts the following student fees policy in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act.

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 2024-2025 school year. Parents, guardians, and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

(1) Guidelines for non-specialized attire required for specified courses and activities. Students have the responsibility to furnish and wear non-specialized attire meeting general District grooming and attire guidelines, as well as grooming and attire guidelines established for the building or programs attended by the students or in which the students participate. Students also have the responsibility to furnish and wear non-specialized attire reasonably related to the programs, courses and activities in which the students participate where the required attire is specified in writing by the administrator or teacher responsible for the program, course or activity.

The District will provide or make available to students such safety equipment and attire as may be required by law, specifically including appropriate industrial-quality eye protective devices for courses of instruction in vocational, technical, industrial arts, chemical or chemical-physical classes which involve exposure to hot molten metals or other molten materials, milling, sawing, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding, or stamping of any solid materials, heat treatment, tempering, or kiln firing of any metal or other materials, gas or electric arc welding or other forms of welding processes, repair or servicing of any vehicle, or caustic or explosive materials, or for

laboratory classes involving caustic or explosive materials, hot liquids or solids, injurious radiations, or other similar hazards. Building administrators are directed to assure that such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, teachers are directed to instruct students in the usage of such devices and to assure that students use the devices as required, and students have the responsibility to follow such instructions and use the devices as instructed.

(2) Personal or consumable items & miscellaneous

(a) Extracurricular Activities. Students have the responsibility to furnish any personal or consumable items for participation in extracurricular activities.

(b) Courses

(i) General Course Materials. Items necessary for students to benefit from courses will be made available by the District for the use of students during the school day. Students may be encouraged, but not required, to bring items needed to benefit from courses including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers, notebooks, trappers, protractors and math calculators. A specific class supply list will be published annually in a Board-approved student handbook or supplement or other notice. The list may include refundable damage or loss deposits required for usage of certain District property.

(ii) Damaged or Lost Items. Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of school property. Students and their parents or guardian will be held responsible for damages to school property where such damage is caused or aided by the student and will also be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of school property which is placed in the care of and lost by the student.

(iii) Materials Required for Course Materials. Students are permitted to and may be encouraged to supply materials for course projects. Some course projects (such as projects in art and shop classes) may be kept by the student upon completion. In the event the completed project has more than minimal value, the student may be required, as a condition of the student keeping the completed project, to reimburse the District for the reasonable value of the materials used in the project. Standard project materials will be made available by the District. If a student wants to create a project other than the standard course project, or to use materials other than standard project materials, the student will be responsible for furnishing or paying the reasonable cost of any such materials for the project.

(iv) Music Course Materials. Students will be required to furnish musical instruments for participation in optional music courses. Use of a musical instrument without charge is available under the District's fee waiver policy. The District is not required to provide for the use of a particular type of musical instrument for any student.

(v) Parking. Students may be required to pay for parking on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities, and may be subject to payment of fines or damages for damages caused with or to vehicles or for failure to comply with school parking rules.

(3) Extracurricular Activities-Specialized equipment or attire. Extracurricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the District, which do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades, and in which

participation is not otherwise required by the District. The District will generally furnish students with specialized equipment and attire for participation in extracurricular activities. The District is not required to provide for the use of any particular type of equipment or attire. Equipment or attire fitted for the student and which the student generally wears exclusively, such as dance squad, cheerleading, and music/dance activity (e.g. choir or show choir) uniforms and outfits, along with T-shirts for teams or band members, will be required to be provided by the participating student. The cost of maintaining any equipment or attire, including uniforms, which the student purchases or uses exclusively, shall be the responsibility of the participating student. Equipment which is ordinarily exclusively used by an individual student participant throughout the year, such as golf clubs, softball gloves, and the like, are required to be provided by the student participant. Items for the personal medical use or enhancement of the student (braces, mouth pieces, and the like) are the responsibility of the student participant. Students have the responsibility to furnish personal or consumable equipment or attire for participation in extracurricular activities or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire. For musical extracurricular activities, students may be required to provide specialized equipment, such as musical instruments, or specialized attire, or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire.

(4) Extracurricular Activities-Fees for participation. Any fees for participation in extracurricular activities for the 2024-2025 school year are further specified in Appendix "1." Admission fees are charged for extracurricular activities and events.

(5) Postsecondary education costs. Students are responsible for postsecondary education costs. The phrase "postsecondary education costs" means tuition and other fees only associated with obtaining credit from a postsecondary educational institution. For a course in which students receive high school credit and for which the student may also receive postsecondary education credit, the course shall be offered without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees, except tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credits from a postsecondary educational institution.

(6) Transportation costs. Students are responsible for fees established for transportation services provided by the District as and to the extent permitted by federal and state laws and regulations.

(7) Copies of student files or records. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of fees representing a reasonable cost of reproduction for copies of a student's files or records for the parents or guardians of such student. A parent, guardian or student who requests copies of files or records shall be responsible for the cost of copies reproduced in accordance with such fee schedule. The imposition of a fee shall not be used to prevent parents of students from exercising their right to inspect and review the students' files or records and no fee shall be charged to search for or retrieve any student's files or records. The fee schedule shall permit one copy of the requested records be provided for or on behalf of the student without charge and shall allow duplicate copies to be provided without charge to the extent required by federal or state laws or regulations.

(8) Participation in before-and-after-school or pre-kindergarten services. Students are responsible for fees required for participation in before-and-after-school or pre-kindergarten services offered by the District, except to the extent such services are required to be provided without cost.

(9) Participation in summer school or night school. Students are responsible for fees required for participation in summer school or night school. Students are also responsible for correspondence courses.

(10) Breakfast and lunch programs. Students shall be responsible for items which students purchase from the District's breakfast and lunch programs. The cost of items to be sold to students shall be consistent with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Students are also responsible for the cost of food, beverages, and personal or consumable items which the students purchase from the District or at school, whether from a "school store," a vending machine, a booster club or parent group sale, a book order club, or the like. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

(11) Waiver Policy. The District's policy is to provide fee waivers in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities and (2) use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Participation in a free-lunch program or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for free or reduced price lunches for purposes of this section. Students or their parents must request a fee waiver prior to participating in or attending the activity, and prior to purchase of the materials.

(12) Distribution of Policy. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall publish the District's student fee policy in the Student Handbook or the equivalent (for example, publication may be made in an addendum or a supplement to the student handbook). The Student Handbook or the equivalent shall be provided to every student of the District or to every household in which at least one student resides, at no cost.

(13) Student Fee Fund. The School Board hereby establishes a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate school district fund not funded by tax revenue, into which all money collected from students and subject to the Student Fee Fund shall be deposited and from which money shall be expended for the purposes for which it was collected from students. Funds subject to the Student Fee Fund consist of money collected from students for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) postsecondary education costs, and (3) summer school or night school.

## CERTIFICATION

On the 15th day of July, 2024, the school board held a public hearing at a meeting of the school board on a proposed student fee policy. Such public hearing followed a review of the amount of money collected from students pursuant to, and the use of waivers provided in, the

student fee policy for the preceding school year. The foregoing student fee policy was adopted after such public hearing by a majority vote of the school board at an open public meeting in compliance with the public meetings laws.

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Superintendent or Other Authorized School Official

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-2125 to 79-2135 and Laws 2003, LB 249 (The Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act)  
Neb. Constitution, Article VII, section 1.  
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-241, 79-605, and 79-611 (transportation)  
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-2104 (student files or records)  
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-715 (eye-protective devices)  
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-737 (liability of students for damages to school books)  
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-1104 (before-and-after-school or pre-kindergarten services)  
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-1106 to 79-1108.03 (accelerated or differentiated curriculum program)

Date of Adoption: July 2023  
Reviewed July 2024

**Appendix “1” to the Student Fees Policy of**

**Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca Public Schools**

**Additional Specification of Required Materials and Fees<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Program</b>	<b>General Description of Fee or Material</b>	<b>\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum)<sup>2</sup> or Specific Material Required</b>
<b>PreK-3 Elementary Program</b>		
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. Refundable damage deposit of \$75.00 for use of school owned instrument.
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 which may be handed out by the office or individual teachers.
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 \$15.00 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

<sup>1</sup> This listing is a part of the 2025-2026 Student Fees Policy and is intended to provide supplemental information. For additional specifications, refer to the Policy.

<sup>2</sup> Generally, dollar amounts are stated in terms of “maximums.” The actual fee or charge may be less during the 2025-2026 school year.

		lunches will be provided as needed for free-reduced lunch eligible students.
Summer school courses	Classes offered during the summer, or at night, if any	\$300 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.
School Meals		Milk-- \$.55 Breakfast-- \$2.35 Lunch--\$3.30 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.
<b>4- 12 Secondary Program</b>	<b>General Description of Fee or Material</b>	<b>\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required</b>
Physical Education classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Tennis shoes
Art and shop classes and special projects	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged; protective clothing for shop classes
Music—Optional band courses	Musical instruments	Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.) Limited instruments available for use by any student. Damage deposit of \$75.00 for use of school owned instrument.
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 which may be handed out by the office or individual teachers.
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.
School Meals		Milk--\$.55 Breakfast- \$2.35 Lunch--\$3.55 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.
Post-secondary education classes	Tuition and fees for college courses taken for credit.	None--Any postsecondary education costs are to be paid directly by students to the college.

College entrance tests and preparation	Prep programs & tests	Costs of college entrance tests or prep courses, such as ACT preparation tutoring, PSAT test, and ACT test, are optional and to be paid directly to the private companies involved.
Summer school courses	Classes offered during the summer, or at night, if any	Drivers education class: \$300 resident and \$350 for non-resident. Other classes: \$300 per class.
Technology Fee	Chromebooks	<b>A \$35 technology fee will be assessed for each enrolled student to support district-provided devices, software, and digital learning resources. This fee will be capped at \$70 per household for students residing in the same primary residence. Families with more than two students should notify the school office to ensure the cap is applied appropriately.</b>
Parking	Use of school parking lot during school day	None. Students will be required to register a license plate number.
<b>Extracurricular and other programs</b>	<b>General Description of Fee or Material</b>	<b>\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required</b>
<b>Athletic Programs</b>		
1. Admission	Spectator fees for admission to events	Varsity & Jr. Varsity Events \$5.00  JV Events/Reserve Only \$4.00  Jr. High Events \$4.00  Student Passes                   \$40.00 per person  For District and Conference events hosted by the School, cost to be set by NSAA but not to exceed \$20.00 per event.
2. Athletic Physicals	NSAA required athletic physicals	Cost varies; payable directly to student's physician or clinic.
3. Athletic Participation Fee	Fee to participate in athletic programs.	In the event an athletic participation fee is charged, the fee will be \$50 per year maximum.
4. Equipment and attire	Students are responsible for required equipment and attire appropriate to the sport or activity which are not provided by the school, and are responsible for any optional clothing, equipment, or other items associated with the sport or activity.	Required items include athletic undergarments (supporter, bra, socks and undershirts), practice attire, including shorts, shirts, socks and shoes suitable for the activity, and dress attire suitable for team travel. Optional items for which students are responsible include: personal athletic bags, hair ties, sweat bands, non-required gloves, towels, forearm pads and personal medical

		<p>devices (braces, orthopedic inserts, etc.). Additional required items for particular sports or activities include:</p> <p>Basketball No additional</p> <p>Cross County No additional</p> <p>Football Mouthpiece</p> <p>Golf Golf bag &amp; clubs</p> <p>Softball Softball glove</p> <p>Speech/Debate Dress attire; copies of research</p> <p>Track No additional</p> <p>Volleyball Volleyball knee pads</p> <p>Wrestling Wrestling head gear</p> <p>Cheerleading and Dance Team Squads Shoes, approved uniforms (top &amp; skirt; jacket), poms and other accessories</p>
5. Travel meals	Meals	Students are responsible for their own meals while traveling. Individual sports or activities may request students to pay up to \$50 per season to be used towards team travel meals.
6. Locker use	Padlock for gym locker	Refundable damage deposit of \$25 per season will be required.
7. Camps and clinics	Registration and other costs of camps or clinics	Students are responsible for the cost of all clinics, camps and conditioning programs. Any personal items purchased at camps or clinics, such as t-shirts, shall be at the student's expense.
8. Athletic Clubs	Letterman's club and other clubs supporting the athletic program	Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.
9. Marching Band and Musical Groups	Equipment and attire.	Students will be responsible for the same costs as are set out for the athletic program. Students will be responsible for supplying

		their own musical instruments and accessories and for their own uniforms. Uniforms for the marching band will be supplied by the school; students may be required to pay a refundable band uniform rental fee of up to \$75.00.
<b>Clubs/Organizations</b>		
Future Business Leaders (FBLA)	State & national dues, meals and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$75.00 per club.
Future Farmers (FFA)	State & national dues, meals and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$75.00 per club.
SOS or Future Career/Community Leaders (FCCLA)	State & national dues, meals and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$75.00 per club.
National Honor Society	State & national dues, meals and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$75.00 per club.
Student Council	State & national dues, meals and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$75.00 per club.
<b>Social &amp; Recognition Activities</b>		
1. School plays, musicals and social activities	Admission to events	\$10.00 per play or activity
2. School dances	Admission to prom, homecoming, etc.	\$25.00 per event
3. Class dues		Each of the six secondary classes may assess its members an amount not to exceed \$50.00 annually for rental and decoration of dance facilities, punch and snacks at social activities, memorials and recognition plaques, flowers, and cards, and similar class activities. The payment of such an assessment shall be strictly voluntary, but students who do not pay may be denied admission to extracurricular activities supported by the class dues.
4. Senior recognition assessment	Optional graduation activities	Participation in class activities attendant to graduation (such as being part of the composite picture, special yearbook pages, etc.) is not required in order for students to receive their high school diploma. Students who choose to participate will be required to pay the cost of the items involved in the graduation ceremony and attendant class activities. These may include the rental of graduation robes, caps, tassels, class flowers, class gift, yearbook picture page, and class composite picture. A single Senior Class

		Recognition Assessment, not to exceed \$50, will be assessed to those Seniors who elect to participate in such activities.
5. Trips	Transportation, lodging, meals, admission to events, etc.	Students are responsible for costs of school sponsored trips where the trip is an extracurricular activity. The maximum costs 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.

Student Fees Collected	
During 2024-2025 School Year	
Student Athletic Passes	\$9,600
FBLA (dues, conference, contests, t-shirts)	\$170
FFA (dues, convention, contests, t- shirts)	\$4,363
SOS (trip, t-shirts)	\$350
Skills (SLC)	\$3702.55
NHS (T-shirts)	\$556.45
Yearbook	\$3,410
Music (Trip, supplies, uniform, t-shirts)	\$5,290
Field Trips	\$11,605.78
Cheer (uniforms, hotels, pictures)	\$8,966.30
Library and Classroom (lost damaged books)	\$118.21
Stop (T-shirts, dues)	\$
Dance (uniforms)	\$1,684.01
Classes (Dues)	\$334.94
Student Council (Dance)	\$1,235
Technology (chrome book/charger)	\$17,880
Drama (t-shirts)	\$80
School Pictures	\$1,985
Total	\$71,331.24