

**DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
**BOARD POLICY**

<b>Board Policy Number:</b>	20.00
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Fees for Learning Materials and Activities</b>
<b>Effective Date:</b>	September 1, 2011 – Approved (235) August 23, 2011
<b>Reference:</b>	General Administrative Procedures 531.00; 704.02

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board is committed to supporting students participating in school activities, regardless of their economic circumstances.

The Ministry of Education’s *Fees for Learning Materials and Activities Guideline* – March 2011, states “that a fee charge shall be permissible for an activity, material, course or program if it is:

- Not required as part of the regular day school program;
- Voluntary, and alternatives are offered;
- Non-essential or extracurricular in nature and is not required for graduation by an individual student; or
- A voluntary upgrade or substitute of a more costly material to the material provided for course purposes.”

Such enhancements or supplementary learning materials beyond the core curriculum, optional programming and student activities may require that parent(s)/guardian(s) or students contribute resources in the way of time, money or materials.

Where fees are permissible based on the Ministry of Education Guideline, the purposes for which and by which the funds are collected will be consistent with the Board’s mission, values and system direction.

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board acknowledges that fees for learning materials and/or activities, as directed by this policy, may be charged for cost recovery purposes. In order to address financial hardship, the Board is committed to minimizing fees to support student participation; to maintaining a cap on the one time annual student activity fee; and to supporting local and central community initiatives that assist in subsidizing student activities.

Financial transparency, accountability and reporting shall be adhered to as per Board policy and procedures.

## **Definitions**

### **Student Activity Fees**

Student activity fees are voluntary amounts that are used to supplement a student’s school experience through materials and activities such as student agendas, student recognition programs, yearbooks, extracurricular activities, school dances, or theme days.

### **Enhanced Programming and Materials**

Enhanced Programming and materials are voluntary enrichments or upgrades to the curriculum or co-curricular activities beyond what is necessary to meet the learning expectations for a particular grade or course. For example, in some performance and production courses (music or woodworking), students may wish to use a superior product or consumable than that provided by the school, in which case they may be asked to pay the additional cost of the upgrade.

Where students choose not to access these enhanced programs or materials, alternatives must be available as essential course materials required to meet the learning expectations of the course or grade are to be provided at no cost.

### **Optional Programming**

Optional Programming refers to voluntary courses or activities that students normally choose to attend through an application process, with the knowledge that these programs are beyond the core curriculum. Examples may include the Regional Arts and Advanced Placement® programs.

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