

Sebastopol Independent Charter School Policy on Pupil Fees

The Sebastopol Independent Charter School does not charge pupil fees or tuition. All students are welcome at our public school.

The following summarizes the intent of AB1575 (enacted as Education Code 49010 et seq.) regarding charging student fees for participating in an educational activity at the school:

- A pupil enrolled in a public school shall not be required to pay a "pupil fee" for participation in an "educational activity."
- All supplies, materials, and equipment needed to participate in educational activities shall be provided to pupils free of charge.
- A fee waiver policy shall not make a pupil fee permissible.
- Schools shall not establish a two-tier educational system by requiring a minimal educational standard and only 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.
- A school shall not offer course credit or privileges related to educational activities in exchange for money or donations of goods or services from a pupil or a pupil's parents or guardians, nor shall the school remove such credit or privileges for failure to make a donation.
- Voluntary donations of funds or property or participation in fundraising activities are allowed, and prizes or other recognition may be given for participating in fundraising activities.
- AB 1575 shall not be interpreted to prohibit the imposition of a fee, deposit, or other charge otherwise allowed by law.
- Complaints regarding noncompliance with AB 1575 may be filed with the school's Director.

This policy is being adopted in compliance with AB 1575:

The Sebastopol Charter School Board shall not permit fees or direct charging of students for participation in school curricular or extracurricular activities. The Board will not allow class materials fees, or other course fees to be charged to students and/or families. Further, the Board shall not allow quid pro quo language requiring families to pay for impending activities or materials through a third party foundation or class fund. Participation in any fundraising activities or solicitations for donations for the benefit of the school is completely voluntary.

As the school relies upon community funding for its rich educational program, the Board acknowledges the need to publicize the importance of financial support by the school community. The Board shall allow informational literature that describes the costs of programming to be given to community members. The Board permits such literature to encourage community funding of school activities through campaigns of voluntary participation, such as the Charter Foundation pledge program and auction. The school has established a once-a-year, completely voluntary, donation request for field trips and other activities in order to ensure that there are not repeated

donation requests for such activities throughout the year. Under no circumstances will any student be barred from any school activity for reasons related to that student's, or student's family's, donation status.

The school will only charge students and families for the replacement cost of lost or damaged materials (such as books, musical instruments, sports uniforms, or other equipment) issued by the school for student use, as allowed by law.

Complaints regarding this matter should be addressed directly to the Executive Director. If a complaint regarding a pupil fee is found to have merit, the school will reimburse the fee to all affected pupils, parents, or guardians.

This policy is intended to implement the policies, prohibitions and mandates of AB 1575 and shall be construed consistent with the provisions thereof.