

Zionsville Community Schools

Board of School Trustees Meeting “Item for Consideration”

New Business Item 6a • Date: August 10, 2026

Curricular Materials Fees for SUPPLEMENTAL items

Category:

☐ Human Resources, Personnel/Staffing	☒ Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment	
☒ Finance, Budgeting, Accounting	☐ Student Services	☐ Board Policy
☐ Facilities, Transportation, Nutrition	☐ Community Relations	☐ Other

Type of Board of Trustees Consideration Sought:

Action	☒
Discussion	☐
Report	☐

Facts of this Matter:

In the spring of 2023, HEA 1001 legislation was enacted that changed how Curricular Materials were funded in Indiana. Starting with the 2023-2024 school year, schools could no longer impose a fee for curricular materials. However, at that time, definitions were unclear as to what was included in “curricular materials” versus what was intended to be included in “curricular materials”. Legal interpretation provided at that time included ALL curricular materials. That guidance remained until the next legislative budget session in the spring of 2025. At that time, clarity was included in legislation that allowed for fees to be calculated and imposed for items supplemental to instruction. Under the new guidance, textbooks and computer devices needed for instruction remain as items that must be paid from district funds. However, items supplemental to instruction such as workbooks and other consumable items may be charged to families. Following this adjusted guidance, ZCS returned to passing along fees for allowable supplemental items during the 2025-2026 school year.

After securing the materials for the new school year, it is now time to seek authorization for elementary fees for the 2026-2027 school year based on costs incurred by ZCS to provide these items. Secondary fees will be available for consideration at a future meeting. The staggered approval structure allows staff time to ensure all the items for classes are ordered and received and updated pricing is considered in this fee request.

The Board of School Trustees is hereby asked to approve the attached schedules of charges for curricular materials supplemental to instruction. Detailed lists of items included in these charges are maintained by the Business Services Department.

Charges for students in grades K-4 are determined by grade level or Special Education class type.

Grade	Supplemental Curricular Fee
Kindergarten	\$104.98
1 st	\$110.65
2 nd	\$110.65
3 rd	\$132.42
4 th / 4 th HA	\$88.44
Recorder (for new 4 th grade students)	\$5.20
Elem. Lifeskills, Functional Acad, Autism Classrooms	\$58.83

Objective POSITIVES related to this item or approach:

The consumable fees shown are calculated to equal district costs for these items. Assessing these fees to families, as permitted by law, will aid in our ability to continue financing the cost of instruction as the state does not provide additional funding or reimbursement for these items.

Objective NEGATIVES related to this item or approach:

Consumable fees, while evaluated for their benefit to instruction can become significant, especially in the secondary classes. As always, families needing assistance can reach out to the district for resources available. Families that are part of the meal assistance program (frequently referred to as Free or Reduced Lunch) will have their fees waived, only remaining responsible for lost or damaged items.

Opinion/Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board of School Trustees approve the attached schedules of charges for supplemental curricular materials fees for the 2026-2027 school year.

Financial Implications, if any:

As noted above, the recommended fees are designed to recoup costs for those consumable items that are supplemental to instruction and used up or consumed in a single school year by an individual student.

Suggested Wording for a Motion, if any:

I move that the Board of School Trustees approve the schedules of elementary supplemental curricular material fees for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.