

Public Hearing on Policy # 5416 Student Fees

Monday, July 14, 2025 5:55 PM

Bennet Elementary Commons Area

50 Dogwood

Bennet, NE 68317

District Mission:

“Together we prepare our students to successfully meet the challenges of the future.”

Strategic Goal 1: District OR-1 Public Schools will provide the facilities needed to be competitive with other area schools in athletics and fine arts programs.

Strategic Goal 2: District OR-1 Public Schools will foster a unified community.

Strategic Goal 3: District OR-1 Public Schools will continuously implement (academic) programs and the curriculum needed to remain competitive with other area schools.

Attendance Taken at 5:55 PM.

Dean Busch:	Present
Jaimi Calfee:	Present
Tim Cheney:	Present
Brandon Desh:	Present
Dee Moore:	Present
Josh Penterman:	Present

This information was posted in the following public formats:

- The Voice News (weekly area newspaper)
- Farmers' Merchants Bank - Palmyra
- Palmyra Post Office
- Palmyra High School
- Bennet Post Office
- Bennet Elementary School
- District OR-1 Website - <https://www.districtor1.org/>

1. Call to Order

- Board President Desh called the public hearing to order at **5:55 p.m.**

2. Announcement of the Open Meetings Act Posting

- Board President Desh identified the location of the Open Meetings Act Poster on the wall in the meeting room.
 - ***Open Meeting changes are reflected in the currently posted materials: revised April 2024.***

3. Open Public Hearing on Student Fees Policy #5416 Motion to Open Hearing on Student

Fees: Policy #5416 Passed with a motion by Tim Cheney and a second by Josh Penterman.

Dean Busch: Yea, Jaimi Calfee: Yea, Tim Cheney: Yea, Brandon Dosh: Yea, Dee Moore: Yea, Josh Penterman: Yea

- Board President Dosh opened the public hearing at **5:55 p.m.**

4. In compliance with the provisions of State Statute Section 79-2,133, 134 the Board of Education provides this time for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observations regarding Student Fees Policy: **#5416.**

- No public comment was presented during the public hearing.

5. Close Public Hearing on Student Fees Policy #5416 Motion to close public hearing on Student Fees Policy # 5416 Passed with a motion by Dean Busch and a second by Dee Moore.

Dean Busch: Yea, Jaimi Calfee: Yea, Tim Cheney: Yea, Brandon Dosh: Yea, Dee Moore: Yea, Josh Penterman: Yea

- The public hearing was closed at **5:57 p.m.**

6. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at **5:57 p.m.**

Chairperson

Superintendent

**Appendix "1" to the 2025-2026 Student Fees Policy for
District OR-1 Public Schools**

Additional Information Regarding Required Materials and Fees

Bennet Elementary School (Pre-school – 5th grade)	General Description	Amount of Fee or Specific Material Required
Physical Education classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Tennis shoes
Art classes and special projects or events	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	
Technology Fee	Chromebooks	\$40.00 Technology Usage Fee / Insurance
Music-Optional band Courses	Musical instruments	Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, drumsticks, lyres, flip folders, slide grease, reed guards, cleaning swabs, mouthpiece brushes, pad savers, ligatures, and a "gig bag", etc.) <i>Please note: Limited instruments are available for use by students.</i>
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 the class supply lists
Field Trips	Transportation and admission costs	Field trip costs may vary based on location and event logistics. Meals on field trips will be at the expense of the student per current school meal prices. School lunches will be provided as needed for free-reduced lunch-eligible students.
Summer Enrichment	Classes offered during the summer	\$75 per child. Fees may be reduced or eliminated based on the student's IEP or free/reduced lunch eligibility.
Credit Recovery	Classes are offered to students in Grades 9-12 at the end of the school year.	\$100.00 per class.
Lost or damaged books	Damage fee or replacement cost	Fees and fines up to \$5.00 for damaged books. Lost books or ruined books are charged replacement cost, generally at a maximum of

		\$65.00
Yearbooks: This is an optional expense.	School Book	Yearbooks are published and made available for purchase every year.
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge).	Fifteen cents (.15) per page when charges apply.
School Meals		Breakfast (Grades K-5)--\$2.25 Lunch (Grades K-5)--\$3.30 Milk (Grades K-5)--\$.50 <i>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.</i>
Before/After School Recreation per hour		\$4.50 per hour
Preschool per month		• \$150.00 per month part-time tuition • \$300.00 for full-time tuition <i>FYI: This bill is due on the 1st of every month.</i>

Secondary Program Grades 6-12	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 running shorts, T-shirt
Art and shop classes and special projects, science classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire) Goggles-1 pair is provided per year. If lost or damaged, students are required to purchase a new pair.	Old shirt for painting; other clothing that may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged; protective clothing for shop classes; approved protective goggles for science classes. Students pay a cost that is beyond the standard project provided by the school.

Music-Optional band courses	School-owned musical instrument rental	\$50.00 per year or \$25.00 per semester for school-owned instrument rental fees and cleaning. Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.) Limited instruments are 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, which may be handed out by the office or individual teachers.
Classroom Projects, i.e, Family & Consumer Science, Industrial Technology	Project Cost	Students pay a cost that is beyond the standard project provided by the school.
Advanced math or science classes	Specialized calculators	Some limited-function calculators will be available at school. If lost or damaged a replacement fee will be assessed at a rate paid by the school. Students are encouraged but not required to purchase such equipment for their personal use.
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge)	Fifteen cents (.15) per page when charges apply.
School Meals		Breakfast (Grades 6-12)--\$2.50 Lunch (Grades 6-12)--\$3.40 Milk (Grades 6-12)--\$.50 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.
SENCAP: "Dual credit" college classes	Tuition and fees for college courses taken for credit while in high school.	"Dual Credit" class costs are to be paid directly by students to the college.

End-of-year lost or damaged books	Damage fee or replacement cost	Fees and fines of up to \$5.00 for damaged books. Lost books or ruined books are charged replacement cost, generally at a maximum of \$65.00
Yearbooks - Optional	School Book	Yearbooks are published and made available for purchase every year. The cost is generally about \$50.
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.
Technology Fee	Chromebooks	\$40.00 Technology Usage Fee

Extracurricular and other programs	General Description of Fee or Material	Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required
Athletic Programs		
Admission	Spectator fees for admission to events	\$6.00 per event maximum. Students may purchase an activity pass for \$40.00 per year. For District and Conference events hosted by the School, the cost is to be set by NSAA but not to exceed \$20.00 per event. Senior Citizen pass: \$5.00 per person per school year
Athletic Physicals	NSAA required athletic Physicals	Cost varies; payable directly to the student's physician or clinic.

Equipment and Attire	Students are responsible for the required equipment and attire appropriate to the sport or activity that are not provided by the school, and are responsible for any optional clothing, equipment, or other items associated with the sport or activity. Uniform items are checked out to students. If lost or damaged, students will be assessed fees in the amount of the replacement cost.	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, swim goggles, towels, forearm pads, and personal medical devices (braces, orthopedic inserts, etc.). Additional required items for particular sports or activities include:	
		Basketball	No additional costs
		Football	Mouthpiece
		Golf	Golf bag & clubs
		Speech	Dress attire, copies of research
		Track	No additional costs
		Volleyball	Volleyball knee pads
		Wrestling	Wrestling headgear
		Cheerleading and Flag Team Squads	Shoes, approved uniforms (top & skirt, jacket), poms, and other accessories
Travel meals	Meals	Students are responsible for their meals while traveling.	
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.	

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 musical instruments and accessories and for their 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 \$50.00. For High School Band Students, a \$10.00 uniform cleaning fee is requested. For Junior High Band Students, a \$10.00 uniform cleaning fee is requested. For High School Vocal students, a \$10.00 choir robe cleaning fee is requested.
Vocal Music Group	Coordinating group attire	Students will pay for the outfits selected by the group. Cost will be based on selection at a maximum of \$130.00
Clubs/Organizations		
Future Farmers (FFA)	State & national dues, meals, and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.
Future Career/Community Leaders (FCCLA)	State & national dues, meals, and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.
National Honor Society	State & national dues, meals, and activities	Currently, no dues are required. Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.
Swing Choir	Attire	Students are responsible for purchasing outfits and accessories not to exceed \$150.00.
All Girls Swing Choir	Attire	Students are responsible for purchasing outfits and accessories.
Student Council	State & national dues, meals, and activities	Currently, no dues are required. Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.
Cheerleading	Uniforms	Uniforms TBA covered by parents Camp attendance is optional.
Social & Recognition Activities		
School plays, musicals, and social activities	Admission to events	\$10.00 per play or activity

School dances	Admission to prom, homecoming, etc.	Up to \$10.00 per event
Senior Prom Fee	Starting in 7th grade and through their junior year, each student will pay a \$15 fee that will go towards their senior prom. Leftover money from the prom fees will go towards the costs of the cap and gown. Please note: Graduating classes of <i>2026 and 2027</i> will need to continue fundraising when they are juniors to make up the difference that was not collected from the beginning of their 7th-grade year. Graduating classes of 2028 will have enough money from fees to cover prom expenses.	\$15.00 per year
Class dues		Currently, no dues are assessed. Each of the six secondary classes may assess its members an amount not to exceed \$75.00 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.
Picture Packets	Optional - Pictures are still taken for use in the school yearbook.	Students purchase packets as desired and pay directly to the photo company.

Senior Recognition Assessment	<i>Optional graduation Activities</i>	Participation in class activities attendant to graduation (such as being part of the composite picture, special yearbook pages, etc.) is not required 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. <i>These may include the rental of graduation robes, caps, tassels, class flowers, a mother's flower, a class gift, a yearbook picture page, and a class composite picture.</i> A single Senior Class Recognition Assessment, not to exceed \$50, will be assessed to those Seniors who elect to participate in such activities. Expenses for the above-mentioned items will be paid out of the "Class Activity" account until funds are depleted. After this fund is empty, students will be responsible for all optional graduation activity costs.
Trips	Transportation, lodging, meals, admission to events, etc.	For extracurricular and optional trips like Seniors' Day Out to Lincoln and Omaha, students will be assessed a \$10.00 fee and will be responsible for meals. Students are responsible for the costs of school-sponsored trips where the trip is an extracurricular 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.

StudentsStudent Fees Policy

The Board of Education of District OR-1 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 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 that 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 that 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 **2025-2026** 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 guardians 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 mean student activities or organizations that 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 that is ordinarily exclusively used by an individual student participant throughout the year, such as golf clubs, softball gloves, and the like, is required to be provided by the student participant. Items for the personal medical use or enhancement of the student (braces, mouthpieces, 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 **2025-2026** 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 to 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 credit recovery. Students are responsible for fees required for participation in summer school or credit recovery. Students are also responsible for correspondence courses.

(10) Breakfast and lunch programs. Students shall be responsible for items that 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 that 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 before participating in or attending the activity and before purchasing 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 14th day of July, 2025 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 a public hearing by a majority vote of the school board at an open public meeting in compliance with the public meetings laws.

Superintendent or Other Authorized School Official

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. §§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. §§79-241, 79-605, and 79-611(Transportation)
Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-2104 (student files or records)
Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-715 (eye-protective devices)
Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-737 (liability of students for damages to school books)
Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-1104 (before-and-after-school or pre-kindergarten services)
Neb. Rev. Stat. §§79-1106 to 79-1108.03 (accelerated or differentiated curriculum program)

Date of Adoption: March 13, 2017

Date of Review: July 14, 2025