

questions & answers

For more information,
please contact

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Fees and Waivers

Q: Why do we charge fees in a public education system?

A: We wish the CBE didn't have to charge fees, but there are two reasons why we do. Unfortunately, some programs or services cost more than the funding provided, so we have to close the gaps with fees. Second, we are required to balance our budgets every year.

Q: What happens if I cannot afford the fees?

A: No child is ever denied access to an education in the CBE because of an inability to pay. If you can't afford the fees, there are several ways to be considered eligible for a waiver, including but not limited to:

- you receive assistance from Provincial Social Services;
- your family is eligible for the Alberta Child Health Benefit;
- you are a Government Sponsored Conventional Refugee; or
- your Children are Treaty Status living below an income threshold based on family size.

If your waiver on any of the above grounds is denied, you may declare a hardship to your school principal. They will work with you to either come up with a manageable payment schedule, or can decide to waive part or all of your fees.

Q: Does the CBE use collection agencies?

A: If CBE efforts to collect fees fail, our very last resort is sending the account to a collection agency. If you use a program or service, our policy is to charge you for that program or service. If you cannot afford the fees, there are several ways that the fees can be waived. Fees are only sent to collection if families have not declared a financial hardship for services they use and after every reasonable attempt has been made to settle the amount owing. No outstanding balances are sent to collections until at least 200 days have elapsed. Our policies require us to work to collect fees owing from any source. Again, no child is ever denied access to CBE programs or services because of an inability to pay.

Q: What if I received a collection notice in error?

A: If there has been an error, please contact our Finance department immediately at (403) 817-7888, or email StudentFees@cbe.ab.ca. We will work with you to correct the error as soon as possible.

