

news release

Calgary Board of Education freezes most student fees for 2013-14

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CALGARY—The CBE is freezing most student fees at current levels for 2013-14 in spite of the challenges of the provincial budget.

Fees will be unchanged for transportation; instructional supplies and materials; incidental activities for students at lunchtime and music instrument registration.

The decision to freeze transportation fees at current levels was made in spite of a reduction in funding in the provincial budget. The province eliminated a fuel contingency grant that would have meant an additional \$2.3 million in 2013-14 to transport more than 35,000 CBE students to and from school next year.

When the transportation fee decision was announced on March 13, Naomi Johnson, chief superintendent of schools, said, "We hope this commitment means there is one less thing for CBE families to worry about for next year."

For 2013-14, the cost of kindergarten transportation will remain at \$215, for one more year. For all other students on yellow or "charter" buses, the fee remains \$295. The CBE will continue to provide a rebate of \$19 per month to students who buy Calgary Transit passes.

The rates for noon supervision fees are changing slightly to reflect the actual cost of offering the service. Students who are supervised for lunch five days a week will see rates drop to \$220 for the year from \$230. Four-day noon supervision will be \$200 (up from \$185); four/five-day noon supervision will be \$215 (up from \$210).

Noon supervision rates are set based on the total cost of operating the service divided equally by the number of students who use the service. Last year the CBE calculated the rate based on all noon-supervision programs having the same per-day costs. A year later, we have learned more details about noon supervision fixed costs. The rates for 2013-14 reflect actual costs of providing the four, four/five- and five-day programs.

The CBE also announced last year that the full cost of noon supervision fees for students who take the bus would be phased in over three years. The phased-in approach was recommended by parents who participated in a broad fee consultation a year ago. In 2012-13, the first year, bused students paid one-third of the noon supervision fee. In 2013-14, bused students will pay two-thirds of the noon supervision fee. In 2014-15, all students who stay for lunch will pay the same fee.

The 2013-14 noon supervision fee for bused students who stay for lunch:

- four days a week will be \$135;
- four/five days a week will be \$140; and
- five days a will be \$145.

CBE fees for 2013-14 include small increases in specific areas, such as:

- Student parking will increase to a maximum of \$40 per year from \$30.
- For students who are 19 years of age or younger and enrolled in Chinook Learning Services, the instructional supplies and materials fee per course will move to \$65 from \$60.
- For students who are 19 years of age or younger, enrolled in CBe-Learn and not registered at any other CBE school or program of studies, the instructional supplies and materials fee per course will move to \$65 from \$60 for a maximum of three courses.
- There are increases to the fees for non-residents of Alberta. (Fees for students who are not residents of Canada are unchanged.)

Complete details of the fee changes, including Chinook Learning Services and CBe-Learn fees for students age 20 and over, are posted [here](#).

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