



Waiver of School Fees for Homeless Children and Youth

INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Homeless children and youth qualify for a waiver of school fees. The Illinois State Board of Education defines “school fees” as any required charge collected by a public school or school district from a student (or the parents/guardian) for the student’s participation in curricular or extracurricular programs of the school. (ISBE policy on fee waivers: IL Admin. Code Sec. 1.245 and 105 ILCS 5/10-20.13)

“School fees” include, but are not limited to:

1. Charges for text books and instructional materials
2. Charges and deposits for use of school property such as locks, towels, lab equipment
3. Charges for field trips made during or after school hours if the trip is a required or customary part of a class or extracurricular activity
4. Charges for uniforms or equipment related to sports or fine arts programs
5. Charges for supplies related to a particular class such as shop, home economics, lab, art
6. Graduation fees such as caps and gowns
7. School records fees
8. School health services fees
9. Driver’s education fees

The cost of regular school supplies are not considered “school fees”. However, many schools have resources to help homeless children and youth obtain school supplies.

“School fees” do not include: library fines; charges for class rings, yearbooks, pictures, diploma covers or similar items; charges for optional travel undertaken by a school club or group of students outside of school hours; and admission charges for dances, athletic events or other social events.

Please note:

School records may not be withheld due to a student having outstanding fees.

Opening Doors – Statewide Access to Education for Homeless Children and Youth

Adult Learning Resource Center, 2626 S. Clearbrook Drive, Arlington Heights, IL 6005
ROE #26 – Hancock/McDonough, 130 S. Lafayette - Suite 200, Macomb, IL 61455
Illinois Coalition to End Homelessness, 127 North Marion St. – Suite 7, Oak Park, IL 60301
