

**School Fee Waiver Amendments**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Douglas R. Welton**

Senate Sponsor: Heidi Balderree

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends provisions related to school fee waivers.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- defines terms;
- makes technical changes; requires a local education agency to waive the fee for one school trip per academic year for each student;
- limits the number of fee waivers a student may receive;
- requires local education agencies to establish a cap on fee waivers; and
- allows a student to request a fee waiver for a second trip.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

This bill provides a special effective date.

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**53G-7-504**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 497

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **53G-7-504** is amended to read:

**53G-7-504 . Waiver of fees -- Appeal of decision.**

(1) As used in this section:

- (a) "Action plan" means a written agreement between a principal and a student that outlines specific, reasonable steps the student will take to contribute to the school or community in exchange for a fee waiver for a second school trip.
- (b) "Trip" means a school sponsored travel activity ~~that~~ of two or more nights ~~that~~ that

- 30a requires a student to pay a fee  
 31 for participation in the activity.
- 32 [(4)] (2)(a) Subject to the provisions of this part, if an LEA or a school within an LEA  
 33 charges one or more fees, the LEA shall grant a waiver to a student if charging the  
 34 fee would deny the student the opportunity to fully participate or complete a  
 35 requirement because of an inability to pay the fee.
- 36 (b) An LEA governing board shall:
- 37 (i) adopt policies for granting a waiver;
- 38 ~~{(ii)}~~ **Ĥ**→ **[waive the fee for one school trip per academic year for each student;]** ←**Ĥ**  
 39 ~~{(iii)}~~ **(ii)** limit waivers to no more than two trips per student per year;  
 40 ~~{(iv)}~~ **(iii)** adopt policies for a dollar amount cap on total fee waivers;
- 40a and
- 41 ~~{(ii)}~~~~{(v)}~~ **(iv)** in accordance with Section 53G-7-505, give notice of  
 41a waiver eligibility and  
 42 policies.
- 43 (3) A student **Ĥ**→ **who qualifies for a fee waiver** ←**Ĥ** may request a waiver for the fee of a  
 43a second trip if the student:
- 44 (a) meets with the principal or an individual the principal assigns; and  
 45 (b) develops an action plan with the principal that includes school-related contributions,  
 46 including:  
 47 (i) performing custodial work;  
 48 (ii) participating in school-related service programs; or  
 49 (iii) completing other contributions that the principal, or an individual the principal  
 50 assigns, approves.
- 51 (4) The action plan described in Subsection (3)(b) shall:
- 52 (a) match a student's abilities and availability;  
 53 (b) consider a student's individual circumstances;  
 54 (c) specify the type and duration of the contribution to the school or community; and  
 55 (d) avoid interference with a student's academic or personal responsibilities.
- 56 (5) Nothing in this section prohibits a:
- 57 (a) school from offering additional trips each school year to a student who receives a  
 58 second fee waiver under Subsection (3); or  
 59 (b) student from participating in additional trips each school year after receiving a  
 60 second fee waiver under Subsection (3).

- 61   ~~[(2)]~~ (6)(a) An LEA that charges a fee under this part may provide a variety of  
62       alternatives for a student or family to satisfy a fee requirement, including allowing a  
63       student to provide:
- 64           (i) tutorial assistance to other students;
  - 65           (ii) assistance before or after school to teachers and other school personnel on school  
66               related matters; and
  - 67           (iii) general community or home service.
- 68       (b) Each LEA governing board may add to the list of alternatives provided by the state  
69       board, subject to approval by the state board.
- 70   ~~[(3)]~~ (7) With regard to a student who is in the custody of the Division of Child and Family  
71       Services who is also eligible under Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act, an LEA  
72       governing board shall require fee waivers or alternatives in accordance with this section.
- 73   ~~[(4)]~~ (8) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the  
74       state board shall make rules:
- 75           (a) requiring a parent of a student applying for a fee waiver to provide documentation  
76               and certification to the school verifying:
    - 77                   (i) the student's eligibility to receive the waiver; and
    - 78                   (ii) if applicable, that the student has complied with alternatives for satisfying the fee  
79                       requirements under Subsection ~~[(2)]~~ (6) to the fullest extent reasonably possible  
80                       according to the individual circumstances of the student and the LEA; and
  - 81           (b) specifying the acceptable forms of documentation for the requirement under  
82               Subsection ~~[(4)(a)]~~ (8)(a), which shall include verification based on income tax  
83               returns or current pay stubs.
- 84   ~~[(5)]~~ (9) Notwithstanding the requirements under Subsection ~~[(4)]~~ (8), an LEA is not  
85       required to keep documentation on file after the verification is completed.
- 86   ~~[(6)]~~ (10) If a school denies a student or parent request for a fee waiver, the school shall  
87       provide the student or parent:
- 88           (a) the school's written decision to deny a waiver; and
  - 89           (b) the procedure to appeal in accordance with LEA policy.

90       Section 3. **Effective Date.**

91       This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.