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School Fee Waiver Amendments
2026 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Doug Welton
Senate Sponsor: Heidi Balderree

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to school fee waivers.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- limits the number of fee waivers a student may receive;
- requires local education agencies to establish a cap on fee waivers;
- allows a student to request a fee waiver for a second trip; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

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

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.

- 28 **(b)(i)** "Trip" means a school sponsored travel activity of two or more nights that
29 requires a student to pay a fee for participation in the activity.
- 30 **(ii)** "Trip" does not include a travel activity of two or more nights related to an in
31 state activity sponsored by an association as that term is defined in Section
32 53G-7-801.
- 33 ~~[(+)]~~ **(2)(a)** Subject to the provisions of this part, if an LEA or a school within an LEA
34 charges one or more fees, the LEA shall grant a waiver to a student if charging the
35 fee would deny the student the opportunity to fully participate or complete a
36 requirement because of an inability to pay the fee.
- 37 **(b)** An LEA governing board shall:
- 38 **(i)** adopt policies for granting a waiver;
- 39 **(ii)** limit a waiver for a trip to no more than two trips per student per year;
- 40 **(iii)** adopt policies for a dollar amount cap on total fee waivers; and
- 41 ~~[(ii)]~~ **(iv)** in accordance with Section 53G-7-505, give notice of waiver eligibility and
42 policies.
- 43 **(3)** A student who qualifies for a fee waiver may request a waiver for the fee of a second
44 trip if the student:
- 45 **(a)** meets with the principal or an individual the principal assigns; and
- 46 **(b)** develops an action plan with the principal that includes school-related contributions,
47 including:
- 48 **(i)** performing custodial work;
- 49 **(ii)** participating in school-related service programs; or
- 50 **(iii)** completing other contributions that the principal, or an individual the principal
51 assigns, approves.
- 52 **(4)** The action plan described in Subsection (3)(b) shall:
- 53 **(a)** match a student's abilities and availability;
- 54 **(b)** consider a student's individual circumstances;
- 55 **(c)** specify the type and duration of the contribution to the school or community; and
- 56 **(d)** avoid interference with a student's academic or personal responsibilities.
- 57 **(5)** Nothing in this section prohibits a:
- 58 **(a)** school from offering additional trips each school year to a student who receives a
59 second fee waiver under Subsection (3); or
- 60 **(b)** student from participating in additional trips each school year after receiving a
61 second fee waiver under Subsection (3).

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

91 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

92 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.