



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Resolution Regarding Textbook Rental Fees

November 16, 2015

WHEREAS, Indiana is one of 8 states that charge families fees for text books and curricular materials.

WHEREAS, families in Indiana pay an average of \$100 per child in text book rental fees, as well as other fees each year for curriculum materials.

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 20-26-12-1 provides that:

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) and notwithstanding any other law, each governing body shall purchase from a publisher, either individually or through a purchasing cooperative of school corporations, the curricular materials selected by the proper local officials, and shall rent the curricular materials to each student enrolled in a public school that is:

- (1) in compliance with the minimum certification standards of the state board; and
- (2) located within the attendance unit served by the governing body.

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 20-33-5-3 provides that:

(a) If a parent of a child or an emancipated minor who is enrolled in a public school, in kindergarten or grades 1 through 12, meets the financial eligibility standard under section 2 of this chapter, the parent or the emancipated minor may not be required to pay the fees for curricular materials, supplies, or other required class fees. The fees shall be paid by the school corporation that the child attends.

(b) The school corporation may apply for a reimbursement under section 7 of this chapter from the department of the costs incurred under subsection (a).

(c) To the extent the reimbursement received by the school corporation is less than the rental fee assessed for curricular materials, the school corporation may request that the parent or emancipated minor pay the balance of this amount.

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 20-33-5-11 provides that:

- (a) A school corporation may not:
- (1) withhold curricular materials and supplies;
 - (2) require any special services from a child; or
 - (3) deny the child any benefit or privilege;
- because the parent fails to pay required fees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Indiana State Board of Education encourages the General Assembly to explore textbook and curricular material cost programs that further limit or eliminate out-of-pocket expenses for all parents and families.