

West Chester Area School District



**Activity Fee
Informational Packet
2024-2025**

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INTRODUCTION

The West Chester Area School District has a tradition of offering high-quality extra-curricular programs for its students. The activity fee is designed to be as fair and equitable as possible. As a result, fees are set at levels that will not discourage participation, within a structure that represents underlying costs and the fee policies of surrounding districts, while also taking into account other support provided by booster organizations.

DEFINITIONS

Activity Fee:

A fee charged to supplement the expenses associated with providing extracurricular opportunities for students.

Funded Activities & Sports:

Extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletics that are supported by paid coaches or advisors.

Family Fee Cap:

A maximum limit placed on the amount of fees a family has to pay to participate in funded activities/sports in all district schools in a school year. In the WCASD, the family cap is **\$250**.

Service Activities:

Funded activities that involve students performing a service to the school or the student body. Examples of **service activities** include but are not limited to: Safety Patrol (elementary), Yearbook (middle and high school), Student Government (middle and high school), class officers (9-12) and National Honor Society.

ACTIVITY FEE GUIDELINES

The collection of a yearly activity fee is communicated to parents through the back to school portal, and further reinforced by coaches, advisors and directors. Activity fees are collected each school year for funded activities/sports, or the fee for sports may be collected after final cuts for teams are announced. Once a student has participated in a funded activity/sport, no refund of an activity fee is permitted. Participation in funded activities/sports is optional.

Tier One - Elementary School Students Grades 3-5

- Families of elementary students in **grades 3-5** are assessed a **\$28.00** activity fee per student, per year, which allows the student to participate in one or multiple elementary-funded activities.

Tier Two - Middle School Students

- Families of middle school students will be assessed an **\$84.00** activity fee per student, per year, which allows the student to participate in one or multiple funded activities and/or sports.

Tier Three - High School Students

- Families of high school students will be assessed a **\$112.00** activity fee per student, per year, which allows the student to participate in one or multiple funded activities and/or sports.

Exceptions and Fee Limitations:

- **Family Fee Cap** - The maximum amount a family may pay yearly in activity fees is **\$250.00**.
- **Free and Reduced Lunch Students** - Students who qualify for the national Free and Reduced Lunch Program are not required to pay activity fees.
- **Activity Fee Waiver Application** - Families experiencing financial hardships may apply for financial assistance through the Office of the Assistant Superintendent.
- **Service Activities** - Participation in a service activity does not require an activity fee.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

The activity fee is collected annually and, if you choose to participate in a funded activity, please pay by using the online payment method, **PaySchoolsCentral**. Be sure to select the Activity Fee option. Additional payment information is available on our Activity Fee website.

WCASD FUNDED ACTIVITIES
(that require activity fee)

ELEMENTARY	MIDDLE SCHOOL	HIGH SCHOOL
(Grades 3-5)	NON-ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES	NON-ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES
Band	District Honors Band	Academic Competition Team
Chorus	District Honors Chorus	Band, Marching
Orchestra	District Select Strings	Debating Club
Intramurals, After School	Dramatics	DECA Club
	Math Counts	Fall Drama
	School Jazz Band	HS District Senior Strings
	Science Olympiad	Literary Magazine
		Marching Band-Color Guard
	ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES	Musical
	(Grade 7/8)	Newspaper
	Baseball	Robotics Competition
	Basketball	Science Competition
	Field Hockey	Spring Drama
	Football	ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES
	Lacrosse	Baseball
	Soccer	Basketball
	Softball	Cheerleading (Fall)
	Volleyball (Girls)	Cheerleading (Winter)
	Wrestling	Field Hockey
	X Country (Co-Ed)	Football
		Golf
	ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES	Intramurals
	(Grade 6)	Lacrosse
		Soccer
	Basketball (Boys)	Softball
	Basketball (Girls)	Swimming
	Hockey (Girls)	Tennis
	Lacrosse (Co-Ed)	Track
	Soccer (Co-Ed)	Track (Winter)
	Track (Co-Ed)	Volleyball (Girls)
	Volleyball (Co-Ed)	Wrestling
	Wrestling	X-Country

Activity Fee Waiver

An activity fee waiver is offered by the district for families experiencing financial hardship. Families must apply for the waiver using the Waiver Application for Activity Fee (see page 10). **Students who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch program) do not need to submit an activity fee waiver.**

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH STUDENTS

Students who meet one of the following criteria qualify for free and reduced lunch and have their Activity Fee waived:

- All children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) *formerly known as the Food Stamp Program* or the Temporary Assistance for Needy Children Families (TANF)
- Foster children who are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant
- Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.

If you have questions regarding your status in one of the programs listed above, or need additional assistance, please contact your school's Home and School Visitor or the WCASD Social Work Coordinator at 484-266-1226 or PALSTON@wcasd.net.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is an activity fee really necessary in the WCASD?

Yes, an activity fee has become a necessary component of properly funding extra-curricular programs in our District. It is our belief that the growing costs associated with extra-curricular activities should be offset to some extent by participating students and their families.

Does a family with multiple children participating in multiple activities have to pay an activity fee for each child?

A "Family Cap" is in place, which is a maximum limit on the amount of fees a family has to pay to participate in extracurricular activities. In the WCASD, the maximum family cap is set at **\$250** per school year. No matter how many students from one family choose to participate, and whatever the number of activities they're part of, the amount any one family pays in fees cannot exceed **\$250**.

What about students from economically disadvantaged families, or those for whom an activity fee is simply too great a burden?

The WCASD has experience in making sure that all students, regardless of financial status, have access to everything from school materials to daily breakfasts and lunches. The activity fee program has been implemented in a similar way to ensure that any student facing economic hardship will be able to participate, with sensitivity to the respect and dignity each child deserves.

Who determines whether or not a student falls into the category of economically disadvantaged?

The activity fee is automatically waived for all Free and Reduced Lunch students. In addition, activity fee waivers will be offered by the District for families experiencing financial hardship. Parents/Guardians may apply by completing the Waiver Application for Activity Fee in the back of this packet.

My child participates in an extra-curricular activity that does not make use of a paid teacher or advisor so do I have to pay an activity fee for him/her?

No, an activity fee does not apply to extra-curricular programs in which a paid (supplemental contract) position is not involved in advising or coaching students.

How will the activity fee be applied based on the grade level of each student?

Elementary Students: Grades 3-5

Families of elementary students will be assessed a **\$28.00** activity fee per student, per year which allows the student to participate in one or multiple elementary-funded activities (orchestra, band, chorus, and intramurals).

Middle School Students:

Families of middle school students will be assessed an **\$84.00** activity fee per student, per year, which allows the student to participate in one or multiple funded activities and/or sports.

High School Students:

Families of high school students will be assessed a **\$112.00** activity fee per student, per year, which allows the student to participate in one or multiple funded activities and/or sports.

Are there any activities in which students participate that represent exceptions from having to pay a fee?

Yes, service activities – which are those activities that involve students performing a service to the school or student body – will be exempted from activity fees.

Examples of service activities include Bus Safety Patrol (elementary), Yearbook (middle and high school), Student Government (middle and high school), Class Officers 9th through 12th grade, and student members of the National Honor Society.

How will an activity fee be collected?

The activity fee is collected annually and, if you choose to participate in a funded activity, please pay by using the online payment method, [PaySchools Central](#). Additional payment information is available on our [Activity Fee website](#).

WAIVER APPLICATION FOR ACTIVITY FEE

Parents of Free and Reduced Lunch students do not need to complete this application. The activity fee is automatically waived for all Free and Reduced Lunch students.

All approved requests are valid for one year only. Applications must be submitted annually. The identity of students receiving activity fee waivers shall be kept confidential.

Please provide the following information:

Student Name	Grade	School
Student Name	Grade	School
Student Name	Grade	School
Home Address	Phone (1)	Phone (2)

I certify that our family is currently experiencing hardship. I will notify the Assistant Superintendent if our circumstances change.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Please submit this form to activityfee@wcasd.net or mail to:

Dr. Kalia Reynolds
Assistant Superintendent
782 Springdale Drive
Exton, PA 19341