

1 **School Fee Waiver Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Doug Welton**

Senate Sponsor:

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2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

4 This bill amends provisions related to school fee waivers.

5 **Highlighted Provisions:**

6 This bill:

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

12 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

13 None

14 **Other Special Clauses:**

15 This bill provides a special effective date.

16 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

17 AMENDS:

18 **53G-7-504**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 497

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

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

21 **53G-7-504 . Waiver of fees -- Appeal of decision.**

22 (1) As used in this section:

23 (a) "Action plan" means a written agreement between a principal and a student that  
 24 outlines specific, reasonable steps the student will take to contribute to the school or  
 25 community in exchange for a fee waiver for a second school trip.

26 (b)(i) "Trip" means a school sponsored travel activity of two or more nights that  
 27 requires a student to pay a fee for participation in the activity.

28 (ii) "Trip" does not include a travel activity of two or more nights related to an in  
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31 state activity sponsored by an association as that term is defined in 53G-7-801.

32 [~~(1)~~] (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) ~~limit~~ ~~to~~ ~~no~~ ~~more~~ ~~than~~ ~~two~~ ~~trips~~ ~~per~~  
 38a student per year;

39 (iii) adopt policies for a dollar amount cap on total fee waivers; and

40 [~~(iii)~~] (iv) in accordance with Section 53G-7-505, give notice of waiver eligibility and  
 41 policies.

42 (3) A student who qualifies for a fee waiver may request a waiver for the fee of a second  
 43 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 2. **Effective Date.**

91 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.