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## Can schools charge fees for band class?

The school my son is attending has band NOT AS A CHOICE, but as part of their curriculum. Meaning every 5th and 6th grader has to take this class. The problem I have with this is that they do not have enough materials {instruments} for every child and would like parents to either rent or buy. My question is can the school board have a class that is required but not have all the materials provided to every child equally, thus making some have to pay for materials {instruments}?

The Montana law authorizes trustees to charge fees for certain courses.

20-9-214. Fees. (1) The trustees of a district may: (a) require pupils in the commercial, industrial arts, music, domestic science, scientific, or agricultural courses to pay reasonable fees to cover the actual cost of breakage and of excessive supplies used; and (b) charge pupils a reasonable fee for a course or activity not reasonably related to a recognized academic and educational goal of the district or a course or activity held outside normal school functions. The trustees may waive the fee in cases of financial hardship. (2) The fees collected pursuant to subsection (1)(a) must be deposited in the general fund, and the fees collected pursuant to subsection (1)(b) must be deposited in a non budgeted fund as provided in 20-9-210.

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