

Board Policy #: 5021

Adopted/Ratified:

Revision Date:

## **DAILEY ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL**

### **STUDENT FEES**

The Morris E. Dailey Elementary School (“Charter School”) Governing Board, Fresno Innovative Charter Schools, Inc. (“FICS”) recognizes that every California public school student is entitled to a free public education. Therefore, Charter School has adopted the following policy regarding charging students fees for participating in educational activities that are a fundamental part of the curricular and extracurricular program. Nothing in this policy limits a parent/guardian or student’s right to voluntarily contribute time or things of value to our schools. This policy is subject to Charter School’s Uniform Complaint Procedure.

#### **The Free School Guarantee**

In accordance with Education Code Section 49011, “a pupil enrolled in a public school shall not be required to pay a pupil fee for participation in an educational activity.” That includes any fee, deposit, or other charge imposed on pupils, or a pupil’s parents or guardians for any of the following:

- Registering for or participating in a class or extracurricular activity, whether required or elective and without regard to whether the activity is credit-bearing
- A security deposit or other payment required to obtain a lock, locker, book, class apparatus, musical instrument, uniform, or other materials or equipment
- A purchase of any supplies, materials, equipment, or uniforms associated with an educational activity

Education Code section 49010(a) defines “educational activity” as an activity offered by a charter school that constitutes “an integral fundamental part of elementary and secondary education, including, but not limited to, curricular and extracurricular activities.” That does not include, and therefore a fee may be charged, for non-educational services that a charter school elects to provide such as bus transportation, health services, or nutrition services.

#### **Additional Assurances**

With regard to charging fees, Charter School also adopts the following policies:

- No pupil or parent/guardian will be required to request a fee waiver.
- No pupil or parent/guardian will be offered a two-tier educational activity with a minimal opportunity for free and a second, higher opportunity for a fee.

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- No pupil will be offered or denied the opportunity to participate in educational activities based on whether his or her parent/guardian contributed money, good, or services to the school.

### **Voluntary Contributions**

Pupils, parents, and guardians are still encouraged to make voluntary contributions or donations of time, money, or property and to participate in fund raising activities. Pupils may be encouraged to participate in fundraising activities through prizes or other recognition for voluntary participation.

### **Complaint Procedures**

Pupils, parents, and guardians may submit complaints which allege that Charter School has violated the policy on student fees stated above. The Principal shall maintain a record of each complaint and subsequent related actions. Such complaints may be made anonymously if the complaint provides evidence or information leading to evidence to support an allegation of an unlawful fee.

Complaints regarding unlawful fees should be made using the Uniform Complaint Procedures and form adopted by Charter School. If a complaint regarding a particular fee is determined to have merit, Charter School will reimburse all such fees paid by any individual.