



August 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians of Students in the Newton Public Schools:

This letter provides information on all student fees for the 2022-2023 school year and an explanation of family caps and the overall fee limit for families, or *supercap*. Instructions for using the district's online fee information and how to apply for a fee waiver are included.

List of All Fees for 2022-2023

The following is a summary of all School Committee-approved fees and corresponding family caps for the school year 2022-2023. A *family cap* refers to the maximum dollar amount a family pays for any one fee per school year. The *supercap* is the maximum amount a family pays for all fees per school year.

- **Bus:** Annual round trip is \$350 per student, with a family cap of \$700. There is no fee for grades K-5. The fee is required for students in grade 6 residing less than 2.0 miles from their school and grades 7-12 regardless of distance.
- **High School Athletics:** \$325 per sport per season, except football, ice hockey, and alpine skiing which are \$425 each. The family cap is \$975.
- **Middle School Athletics:** \$180 per sport per season. The family cap is \$540.
- **Middle School Student Activities:** \$60 per student per year if drama is not included, or \$100 per student per year if drama is included.
- **High School Drama:** \$150 per participant per play, maximum of \$450 per participant per year.
- **Elementary School Instrumental Music:** \$150 per student per year; Grade 4 has the option to pay \$75 per semester.
- **All-City Band, Chorus & Orchestra:** \$150 per student per year. Students who pay the elementary school instrumental music fee are exempt from the All-City music fee.
- **High School Parking:** \$350 per year, payable on a semester basis of \$175.
- **Elementary School Early Morning Program:** \$12 per day.
- **School Lunch:** \$5.25 per elementary school student meal, \$5.50 per middle school student meal, and \$5.50 per high school student meal. (*All first meals are free under MA regulations for this school year. Families are financially responsible for a-la carte items and second meals.*)



- **Supercap:** \$1,500 maximum family cost per year for fees. The supercap does not apply to high school parking, the elementary school early morning program, or the school lunch program.

The Waiver Process

As in prior years, the Newton Public Schools intends that no student should be excluded from fee-based activities due to an inability to pay. Families may apply for a fee waiver based on financial hardship so that no student is denied participation in school-sponsored activities and bus transportation. Waivers are based on income and family size as well as special circumstances such as unforeseen medical problems, changes in family status, changes in employment status, other emergencies, or temporary hardships. All waiver applications are confidential. Financial waivers do not apply to high school parking or school lunch.

If your family receives free or reduced-price meal eligibility through Direct Certification, you are eligible for district-level financial assistance; however, you must apply as a separate step to receive this support. The USDA confidentiality regulations do not allow school districts to share Direct Certification eligibility without parental approval; therefore the additional request for assistance is necessary.

Please note that the application for financial assistance and fee waivers is now available through the Aspen Parent Portal. Below is the process and timeline:

1. Log into the **Aspen Parent Portal**. If you do not remember your Aspen login, please email **aspen@newton.k12.ma.us**
2. Follow instructions to complete the form: **Instruction to Complete Financial Assistance and Fee Waiver form.**
3. Complete one form for each student.
4. You will receive a response to your application in 24-28 hours or 1-2 business days.
5. Upon approval, register for the activity or service. Select the assistance/waiver option.
6. The necessary staff will be informed of the approval to facilitate participation in the activity or service. Confidentiality will be maintained.

Once approved, your approval is good for one year. You must reapply each year.

For more information, please visit the NPS Fee Payment and Waiver Information Website.
<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/142>

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Liam T. Hurley
Assistant Superintendent/Chief Financial and Administrative Officer

