

Sparta Area School District

Article 547 - Indigent Student Status

The Wisconsin Constitution, statute and case law limit schools' ability to assess fees except under specific circumstances. Schools may charge for social and extra-curricular activities. School districts are also permitted to charge fees for use (or sale) of textbooks and items of a similar nature, except in cases of indigency.

The Sparta Area School District defines an indigent student as one who

1. Is approved for participation in the Free and Reduced Price Meals Program through the U.S.D.A. for the current school year, and
2. Has submitted a signed Parent Consent Form authorizing release of information from the Free and Reduced Price Meals Program allowing the District to use information from their application to determine indigent student status, or
3. Is designated as a homeless student.

Upon the request of a parent, students designated as indigent may receive a reduction or waiver of applicable student fees such as field trip costs, shop fees, or portable device self insurance which may otherwise prevent a student an equal opportunity to participate. They may also qualify for additional support such as the use of a District computer for participation in online instruction.

Indigent student status is confidential and optional for those students who qualify. Refusing indigent student status will have no impact on a student's eligibility for the Free and Reduced Price Meals Program.

Legal Reference:

Cross Reference: Parent Consent Form: Authorization for Release of Information

Approved: April 26, 2016

Revised: