Commonly Asked Questions:

#1 - Question – Why does the District charge fees? As a taxpayer don’t my taxes cover all the needs of the school District?
Answer – The District’s policy, where fees are concerned, is to try and cover costs of the programming (cost recovery). Unfortunately taxpayer funds don’t cover all of the District needs; therefore the legislature has granted authority for school district’s Board of Education to make determination(s) on various fee assessment(s).

#2 – Question – What if my registration packets have already been sent with the prior year fee?
Answer – The new fee will need to be communicated to the parent and collected as it is effective for the 13/14 school year. Planning ahead is great, where possible. It may benefit you to note: each year in May the Fee Schedule goes before the board for revision. Registration packets should be sent out following board approval of fees to prevent these situations.

#3 - Question – What if I already collected the 13/14 school years fees?
Answer – That is great that the fees were collected, but the student should be charged the new rate. This can be accomplished through an additional bill in Infinite Campus.

#4 -Question – Who is going to update the fee schedule in Infinite Campus?
Answer – Business and Finance in conjunction technology will ensure the fees are updated in the system to reflect the new rate structure.

#5 - Question – How do I explain the increase in fees to parents/guardians of students?
Answer – Please explain to all customers that each year the District reviews the fee schedule to determine if it is comparable to local market rates. This year the District noted the costs were well below the local market rates, therefore the District raised fees. In many instances the fees are still well below the local market rates, but an increase was necessary to support various levels of programming and activities.

#6 - Question – What if my child qualifies for free or reduced lunch?
Answer – The new fee structure has no impact to the free or reduced lunch program. Free or reduced lunch status is confidential information, and parents/guardians must sign a waiver of confidentiality in order for this status to be shared for the purpose of waiving school fees. If your child qualifies for free or reduced lunch the parent/guardian will need to complete a fee waiver form to ensure the fees are appropriately waived.  This waiver is in Section 8 of the meal application provided by our Food and Nutrition Center, or can be noted using the Waiver Statement in page 2 of this document and given to the school office.

#7 - Question – Since fees were increased this year does that mean that fees won’t increase next year?
Answer – Not necessarily. Each year the District reviews the fee schedule to ensure that the level of support is appropriate, that costs are materially being covered, and the fees are consistent with market rates.

#8 - Question – Does an individual school have the ability to establish their own fee structure outside of the District’s?
Answer – No. All fees are District driven. An individual school must follow the District’s approved fee structure.

Please see following page for the Waiver Application

**WAIVER STATEMENT – 2013-2014**

**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO COMPLETE THIS WAIVER TO GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS.**

I certify that I am the parent/guardian of the child(ren) for whom application is being made.

Student Name(s)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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School(s)\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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If your child(ren) qualifies for free or reduced price meals, you may also be eligible for other benefits. One of these benefits is school fees. If you sign this waiver, your child(ren) will be considered for a full or partial waiver of school fees: semester, book, driver’s education, summer school, and grants. I understand that I will be releasing information that will show that I applied for free and reduced price school meals for my child(ren). I give up my rights to confidentiality for waiver of school fees ONLY.

Signature of Parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Free or Low-cost health Insurance from the state of Iowa’s Medicaid and ***hawk I*** program for children is available for your child(ren) who have no health insurance. Most children getting free or reduced-price meals qualify. The School District will share the information from this application with ***hawk I.*** Your signature below indicates you do not want your information shared.

I **DO NOT** want school or Head Start officials to share information from my free and reduced price meal application with Medicaid or ***hawk-I****.* Also, if you are already receiving Medicaid or ***hawk-I***, please sign below. This will avoid another contact.

Signature of Parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Free and Reduced/2012-2013/WAIVER STATEMENT w hawk i