



Revised: 02/17/2026

STUDENT FEE POLICY

I. PURPOSE

Higher Ground Academy (HGA) operates in compliance with the Minnesota Public School Fee Law to require and to prohibit certain student fees as allowed. HGA will not deny a student an education because of economic inability to purchase any books or supplies necessary to complete graduation requirements. HGA may charge fees in areas considered extra-curricular, noncurricular, or supplementary to any requirements for the successful completion of a required class or educational program.

II. POLICY

A. Allowed Fees Pursuant to Minnesota Public School Fee Law

HGA reserves the right to require payment of fees in the following circumstances:

1. Any program where the final product becomes the personal property of the student, at the student's option;
2. Extracurricular activity charges and admission fees, where attendance is optional and where the fee is the same for all students;
3. Security deposits for the return of materials, supplies, or equipment;
4. Items of personal use or optional purchases, such as student publications, class rings, yearbooks, and graduation announcements;
5. Driver's Education fees for school students (not to exceed actual program cost);
6. Reasonable rental fees, for school instruments;
7. Reasonable transportation fees for the following:
 - a. Extracurricular activities that are optional to the student;
 - b. Students who live less than two miles from the school, ensuring that no student is denied transportation due to inability to pay the fee; and
 - c. Post-secondary education site.
8. Reimbursement for lost or damaged school properties such as iPads and textbooks.

B. Prohibited Fees Pursuant to Minnesota Public School Fee Law

HGA is **not** authorized to and will **not** charge fees for the following:

1. Textbooks, workbooks, art materials, laboratory supplies, towels;

2. Supplies necessary for participation in any required instruction;
3. Required field trips as part of the basic educational program;
4. Graduation caps, gowns, and diplomas or any specific form of dress necessary for any educational program;
 - a. Students are not required to purchase graduation cap, gown, tassel, or diploma cover. However, they may purchase those items to keep at their option.
5. Instructional costs for school personnel in a course or program required for graduation;
6. Library books required to be utilized for any educational course or program;
7. Fees for any activity the student is required to attend;
8. Costs for any required educational course or program;
9. Fees for locker rentals;
10. Transportation costs for students living two miles or more from school.

C. Withholding Grades or Diplomas Prohibited

HGA may not withhold rights or privileges, including the receipt of grades or diplomas, for failure to pay a required fee, but may take other collection action as allowed.

D. Fees for Lost or Destroyed Materials

HGA may charge fees for technology equipment such as iPads and desk top computers, textbooks, workbooks, and library books that are lost or destroyed by students and must annually notify students of this possibility.

E. Waiver of Fees

A student fee may be waived by HGA for students whose parent(s) are serving or have served in the military in the past year or if the student is unable to pay the fee.