Vista Charter School: Student Fees Policy

Policy ID: [Insert Local ID, e.g., JQ]

Adopted: [Insert Date]

Last Revised: May 14, 2026

Purpose

The Board of Vista Charter School ("the School") recognizes that while the Colorado Constitution guarantees a free public education, certain fees may be necessary to enhance the educational program. This policy ensures that any fees charged are lawful, transparent, and do not create a barrier to enrollment or academic participation.

1. Fee Schedule and Transparency

The School shall adopt and publish an annual **Student Fee Schedule** available to all families. This schedule will detail:

- A complete list of all student fees.
- The specific purpose of each fee.
- Whether the fee is **voluntary** or **mandatory**.
- The specific activity or material from which a student will be excluded if the fee is not paid.

Fees shall remain in effect until modified by the Board. All funds collected must be used strictly for the purposes outlined in the fee schedule.

2. Permissible Student Fees

Students shall not be charged a fee as a condition of enrollment or for any course that is part of the core academic program, except as authorized by law.

- **Tuition:** Charged only as authorized by law (e.g., Preschool programs).
- **Mandatory Fees:** May be charged for programs, activities, or materials/supplies essential to the educational program (e.g., technology fees, science lab consumables, or school uniforms). These must relate directly to the actual cost of the item or service.
- **Miscellaneous/Voluntary Fees:** Charged for non-academic participation, such as extracurricular clubs, athletic participation, voluntary field trips, or admission to school events.

3. Textbooks and Equipment

- **Deposits:** The Board may require non-indigent students to pay a reasonable deposit for textbooks or non-academic equipment (e.g., Chromebooks). Deposits will be refunded upon return of the items in good condition, allowing for ordinary wear.
- **Fines:** All students, regardless of indigent status, may be charged fines for lost or damaged property.
- **Hardship Consideration:** The School will ensure that no student is excluded from the educational program due to an inability to pay a fine. The School shall implement an individualized process to avoid creating undue hardship on families.

4. Fee Waivers for Indigent Students

All mandatory fees, fines, and charges shall be waived for **indigent students**.

- **Definition:** An indigent student is defined as any child eligible for free or reduced-price meals under federal Income Eligibility Guidelines, including students experiencing homelessness or in foster care.
- **Confidentiality:** Fee waivers shall be processed without unnecessary embarrassment or public exposure. All fee-related publications must state that waivers are available for indigent students.
- **Transportation:** If the School charges for transportation, these fees must be waived for students with transportation in their IEP, homeless/foster students, and students qualifying for free/reduced-price meals.

5. Continuing and Community Education

The School may charge fees for summer school or community programs. However, **summer school fees must be waived** for indigent students if the program is required for the student to promote to the next grade level.

6. Non-Withholding of Records

In compliance with Colorado law, Vista Charter School **shall not withhold** the following items for failure to pay a fine or fee:

- Transcripts or Grades.
- Diplomas.
- Records required for enrollment in another school or institution of higher education.

Legal References:

- **Colo. Const. Art. IX, Section 2** (Free public schools)
- **C.R.S. § 22-32-117** (Miscellaneous fees)
- **C.R.S. § 22-32-118** (Summer school/Evening programs)
- **C.R.S. § 22-30.5-507** (CSI school authority)
- **C.R.S. § 22-45-104** (Disposition of fees and fines)

Vista Charter School - Student Fee Schedule

Location: Montrose, CO
In accordance with the Vista Charter School Student Fees Policy, this schedule details the fees, charges, and deposits for the current school year. Fees are used to cover the actual costs of providing materials and activities.

I. Device Repair & Replacement Fines

Note: These fines apply to all students for lost or damaged equipment. Inability to pay will not result in exclusion from the educational program.

Item	Fine Amount	Description
Chromebook Replacement	**$100.00**	Full replacement cost for a lost or unrepairable device.
Charger Replacement	**$5.00**	Replacement cost for a lost or damaged power adapter.
Screen Repair	$40.00	Repair cost for a cracked or shattered device screen.

II. Voluntary/Miscellaneous Fees

Activity/Item	Amount	Purpose	Exclusion if Unpaid
Extracurricular Club Fee	$20.00	Covers after-school club materials and stipends.	Student cannot participate in the specific club.
Field Trip (Optional)	Varies	Admission fees and transportation for enrichment trips.	Alternative academic activity provided at school.

Fee Waiver Process: To apply for a waiver of mandatory fees, please complete the "Household Information Form" available in the main office or on the school website. All requests are kept strictly confidential.