



# You don't HAVE TO pay for School Supplies or Field Trips

Go to a Tennessee public school? Then you don't have to pay for school supplies or field trips. You also don't have to pay for other activities during school hours. No student has to pay, no matter how much money a family has. Schools can **ask** you to pay for school supplies or field trips. But they **can't make you pay**.

The school should make sure your child gets what she needs. Public schools must do this for free.

## School Supplies

Does your child need school supplies for a class they take for a grade or credit? Then Tennessee law says the school **can't** make you pay for the supplies. This includes supplies like:

- Books and workbooks
- Paper and notebooks
- Calculators, compasses and rulers
- Pencils, pens, map colors, crayons
- Gym clothes, if the class is for credit
- Band instruments, if the class is for credit

## Field Trips and Other Activities

Schools **can't** make students pay for field trips or activities during the school day. It doesn't matter what the field trip is or where the class goes. What about an overnight trip during the school week?



The school **can't** make a student pay for the trip. What if the field trip or activity is before or after school? You **don't** have to pay if the student **must** go for credit or a grade.

**Can your child get free or reduced price school lunch?** Then you also **don't** have to pay for summer school or graduation fees. Graduation fees are things like money for a cap and gown.

**Is this for high school or just for grade school?** It's for both.

## You DO have to pay for:

- Fees for activities outside the regular school day, unless your child **must** do them to get credit or a grade
- Fines for returning library books late
- Fines for losing or tearing up textbooks
- Fines for illegal parking at school



### What to do if the school asks you to pay for school fees or field trips

Just write your child's name and "**Fee Waiver**" on the paper. Send it back to the teacher.

### What if your child still can't go on field trips or get what he needs?

Talk to the teacher, the principal or the superintendent. Tell them your child is asking for the fee waiver. Show them this paper. If this doesn't work, call Legal Aid for free legal help.

**Legal Aid Society 1-800-238-1443**