

# fees

## Fees in secondary schools

Ontario's secondary schools charge fees for a range of services and supplies. Those fees total well over \$30 million province-wide and are included in boards' school-generated funds.

Students can expect to pay Student Activity fees, fees for labs and materials, and fees for participating in extra curricular activities. Many of those fees have increased since 2000/01.

- Science—20%
- Modern languages—20%
- Business—11%
- Computers—9%
- English—8%
- Math—3%

## Student Activity Fees

Nearly all secondary schools charge student activity fees, and while these fees may seem nominal at an average \$33.00, they have gone up each year since 2001. Fees this year range from \$5 to \$85, which can act as a barrier to many students.

### 2007 survey results:

- ❑ Average student activity fees in secondary school have increased by 50% since 2001.
- ❑ 38% of secondary schools charge fees for Design and Technology courses.
- ❑ 20% of schools charge fees for Moderns (French, German, Spanish).

## Athletic Fees

Seventy-seven per cent of high schools charge an Athletics fee, up from 61% in 2000/01. Those fees range from a low of \$2 to a high of \$500. The high end has increased fairly steadily since 2001.

The vast majority of schools provide subsidies for fees if students require and request them, but students may worry about the stigma of making such a request.

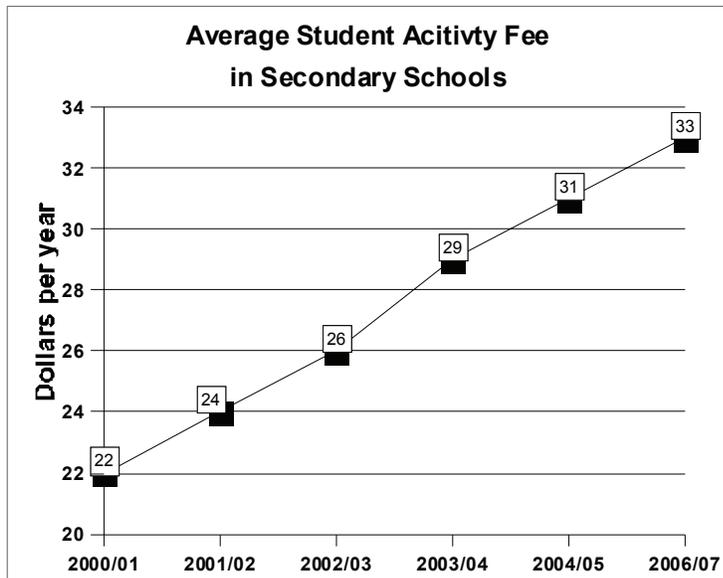
## Fees for labs and materials

Though Ontario's *Education Act* stipulates that boards must supply textbooks where needed, schools may charge lab and material fees for courses such as art, design and technology and science. The total a student might pay ranges from \$2 to \$50.

Secondary schools report fees in the following subject areas:

- Art—58% of schools
- Physical Education—46%
- Design and Technology—38%
- Music—29%
- Family Studies—27%

**Q.** Which services and supplies should every student have access to at no cost? In which cases are fees acceptable?



**what schools told us...**

“Our activity fee is split between student council and athletics. We charge fees for workbooks in business and languages, consumables in Visual Arts, goggles for science and shop, and T-shirts for Physical Education.”

*A secondary school in Toronto DSB*