



VIBRANT MINDS CHARTER SCHOOL

TK-6 Grade, Free, Public Education

412 W. Carl Karcher Way

Anaheim, California 92801

Office: 714-563-2390

FAX: 714-563-2401

<https://www.vibrantminds.us/>

<https://www.facebook.com/VMCharterSchool/>

BOARD POLICY

AB 1575 ANNUAL NOTICE REGARDING SCHOLAR FEES (CHAPTERED SEPTEMBER 29, 2012)

Overview

In 2012, the Governor of California signed into law Assembly Bill 1575 ("AB 1575"), which amended certain provisions of the Education Code and Government Code. One of those amendments requires schools to publish an annual notice to scholars, parents, guardians, employees, and other interested parties regarding the requirements of AB 1575 (see Cal.Ed.Code section 49013(e)).

In compliance with Cal.Ed.Code section 49013(e), on an annual basis, Vibrant Minds Charter School (VMCS) provides this notice to all required parties.

Prohibited Fees

VMCS does not ask parents to pay fees such as:

- A fee charged to a scholar as a condition for registering for school or classes, or as a condition for participation in a class or an extracurricular activity, regardless of whether the class or activity is elective or compulsory, or is for credit;
- A security deposit, or other payment, that a scholar is required to make to obtain a lock, locker, book, class apparatus, musical instrument, uniform, or other materials or equipment;
- A purchase that a scholar is required to make to obtain materials, supplies, equipment, or uniforms associated with an educational activity.

Nor does VMCS ask parents for fees in relation to participation in an educational activity, as follows:

- All supplies, materials, and equipment needed to participate in educational activities shall be provided to scholars free of charge;
- A fee waiver policy shall not make a scholar fee permissible;
- VMCS shall not establish a two-tier educational system by requiring a minimal educational standard and also offering a second, higher educational standard that scholars may only

obtain through payment of a fee or purchase of additional supplies that VMCS district or school does not provide; and

- VMCS shall not offer course credit or privileges related to educational activities in exchange for money or donations of goods or services from a scholar or a scholar's parents or guardians, and a school district or school shall not remove course credit or privileges related to educational activities, or otherwise discriminate against a scholar, because the scholar or the scholar's parents or guardians did not or will not provide money or donations of goods or services to VMCS district or school

Permissible Fees

VMCS may require parents and guardians to pay fees specifically authorized by statute such as:

- Fees related to field trips under Education Code section 35330;
- Fees for the direct costs of projects that scholars fabricate and take home as their own property in certain classes under Education Code section 17551;
- Fees for transporting scholars to and from school under Education Code section 39807.5; or
- Fees for lost or damaged school property under Education Code section 48904

Fundraising

VMCS will continue its ongoing revenue raising efforts through established fundraising entities/procedures to assist with school activities and opportunities available to scholars and their families. VMCS receives voluntary donations and scholars and parents may voluntarily participate in fundraising activities. VMCS also may occasionally offer prizes to scholars for recognition of their fundraising efforts.

Uniform Complain Procedure

AB 1575 allows parents and guardians and others to submit a complaint to VMCS that an illegal fee is being charged by VMCS. Complaints must be filed not later than one year from the date the alleged violation occurred. Complaints may be submitted anonymously. If VMCS finds the complaint has merit, or if the California Department of Education makes such a finding on appeal, VMCS shall provide a remedy to all affected scholars, parents, and guardians that, where applicable, includes reasonable efforts by VMCS to ensure full reimbursement to all affected scholars, parents, and guardians, subject to procedures established through regulations adopted by the state board.

Those believing they have been charged an illegal fee or have been required to purchase materials that should have been provided by VMCS may file a complaint with the Executive Director of VMCS. Complaint forms with instructions for submitting a complaint are available at the Administrative Offices of VMCS upon request during normal business hours. Anyone submitting such a complaint must use VMCS-prepared form, as it is required by law.

Complaints may be filed anonymously, but VMCS will not be able to contact the complainant to ask follow-up questions or to request additional information, so complainants must be certain complaints contain all of the information necessary to prove that VMCS charged an illegal fee.

Within 60 days from the date the Executive Director receives the complaint, VMCS will investigate and send the complainant a written response. The response will include the facts (based on evidence gathered during the investigation), the legal conclusion reached by VMCS, the reasoning for the decision, corrective actions taken, if any, and information about how to appeal. Please note that complainant will not receive a written report if complainant filed the complaint anonymously.

Within 15 days of receiving the decision, the complainant may send a written appeal to the California Department of Education (CDE). CDE decisions regarding appeals are required to be issued within 60 days of the Department receiving the appeal.

Review of Policy

This policy may be reviewed periodically by the VMCS Board.

Adopted: September 23, 2020

Amended: