



Educational Materials and Restitution Policy

This policy supports the School's efforts to remain a sound steward of public funds and ensure students continue to have access to educational materials.

The purpose of the School Governing Board approving this Educational Materials and Restitution Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Provide an Overview for the Educational Materials and Restitution Policy
2. Outline the Procedures for the Restitution Process

1. Overview: Students attending School may receive access to certain School property during the course of the school year, including educational technology and textbooks, and they are responsible for ensuring the educational materials are returned (with reasonable wear and tear). California law states that the parent or guardian of a minor can be held liable to a school for all property loaned to and failed to be returned, or willfully damaged by a minor. The liability shall not exceed \$10,000.

The School shall seek restitution when a student, among other things, willfully cuts, defaces, or otherwise damages any property, or loses or fails to return property, borrowed or personal property belonging to the School. This includes but is not limited to, installing unauthorized software applications, modifying, adding or deleting software or any alteration to the configuration of any and all IT computing devices - such as laptops and other devices.

The School, after affording the student due process rights and providing the student's parent/guardian with written notice, may withhold the grades, diploma, and official transcripts of a student until the student or parent/guardian returns the lost property or pays for the damaged school property (e.g., educational technology, textbooks, etc.).

Withholding Grades, Diploma and Transcripts and Transferring Students

The authority to withhold grades, diploma, or official transcripts applies only to situations where the student, parent or guardian has requested a copy of the student's records. When a student transfers to another K-12 school, the student's permanent record must be sent to the requesting K-12 school. The permanent record, or copy, must be sent even though there may be charges or fees owed by the student, parent, or guardian. In such cases, upon sending the permanent student record to the new (receiving) school, the new school shall be notified of the restitution debt.

2. Procedures:

1. School shall use inventory systems that clearly identify the student and type of school property issued to the student.

2. School shall follow the due process procedure listed below that allows the parent/guardian or student an opportunity to review and respond to the imposition of any fees or charges resulting from this policy.
 - a. The School shall provide the parent/guardian written notice of alleged loss or damage of school property (“Written Notice”).
 - b. The Written Notice will inform families the School may contact law enforcement and/or refer the debt to a collections agency.
 - c. If the parent/guardian disagrees with the School’s Written Notice, they may appeal the Written Notice in writing to the school. The parent/guardian’s appeal should explain why a fee or charge should not be imposed in response to the Written Notice.
 - d. After reviewing any information provided by the parent/ guardian, the Principal (or his/her designee) shall decide whether or not to withhold grades, diploma, or official transcripts and/or impose the fee for damages. The parent/guardian shall be notified in writing of the decision. The written decision of the Principal is final. There is no appeal beyond the school level.
3. Upon receiving notification of the School’s decision (“Second Written Notice”), the parent or guardian must address the outstanding obligation payable to the School or return missing property. When a student and parent/guardian are unable to pay for the damages, or to return the property, the school will provide a program of voluntary work for the student in lieu of the payment of monetary damages.
4. If the parent/guardian does not respond to the Written Notice or if a parent/guardian loses their appeal, School may withhold the transcript, diploma, and grades until the debt is resolved. The Second Written Notice shall explain if the School is withholding the transcript, diploma, and grades until the parent/guardian pays or remedies the outstanding debt.
5. Upon receiving payment or the unreturned educational materials in satisfactory condition (e.g., reasonable wear and tear), or upon the student’s completion of the voluntary work program, the School shall ensure the debt is discharged. If the School withheld student’s grades, diploma, and/or official transcripts, School shall release grades, diploma, and/or transcripts.
6. The purpose of this policy is to provide families reasonable opportunity to return missing educational equipment or pay for damaged and missing school property to avoid the School having to seek a legal recourse. If the Second Written Notice is unsuccessful, the School may consider referring the debt to a collections agency as a last resort.