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April 24, 2017

Dear parents and guardians,

RE: Proposed changes to school fees

Earlier this spring, we posted a story on our division website entitled, "How will the govt. proposal to reduce school fees affect parents?". The story was in response to the Government of Alberta announcing the introduction of Bill 1 to reduce school fees. Attached is a copy of Education Minister David Eggen's letter to parents and guardians regarding Bill 1.

The Bill passed third reading on April 19, eliminating the following fees:

**Busing fees for students who attend their designated school and who live more than 2.4 kilometres from the school.** We do not charge busing fees to these students, so this will not impact families in our school division.

**School fees for basic educational services and supplies.** This includes things like textbooks, workbooks, printing, software licenses, agendas and paper costs. Currently we charge these school fees to PHPS students: Kindergarten - \$60; Grades 1 to 6 - \$70; Grades 7 to 12 - \$110 to \$140 (varies by school); Family rate - \$300. This fall we will no longer be charging these fees.

We are pleased that the province recognizes the costs associated with these items and will be providing us with a grant to cover the costs.

Please note that we will continue to charge fees for in-town busing and for students who ride the bus to a school other than their designated school.

Also, schools will continue to charge fees for enhanced educational services and non-curricular activities. This includes things like field trips, resale supplies, milk programs, hot lunch programs, sports teams, clubs, etc. For more information on these types of fees, contact your child's school.

We look forward to working with you to provide an excellent education for your children, and are pleased to see the government strive to reduce costs for families.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Tuininga  
Board Chair

**Regional Office**

5310 - 49 Street, Barrhead, AB T7N 1P3 • [www.phrd.ab.ca](http://www.phrd.ab.ca)  
P 780.674.8500 • F 780.674.3262 • Toll Free 1.877.693.1333

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*Office of the Minister*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am pleased to share with you some information about Bill 1: An Act to Reduce School Fees, which our government recently introduced in the legislature. By introducing this legislation, our government is working to make life better and more affordable for Alberta families.

If Bill 1 is passed, these fee reductions will come in to effect this fall and no Alberta family will be required to pay for instructional supplies or materials, or for certain types of student transportation, as outlined below. These two school fees represent approximately 25 per cent of the fees collected each year by school boards, and reducing them would lead to Alberta families saving more than \$50 million annually.

Instructional supplies or materials include fees for textbooks, workbooks, printing and paper costs incurred by their public schools. It also includes any common fees that are charged to an entire student body, or grade cohort. These fees can be referred to as—among other titles—instructional fees, instructional materials or basic fees. To date, school fees have varied significantly from school to school, so your savings will depend on the type and amount of fees currently charged by your child's school.

Bill 1, if passed, will also remove bus fees for eligible students traveling to their designated school. That means that if your child attends his or her designated school and that school is more than 2.4 kilometres away from your home, you will not be charged transportation fees. In some circumstances—for example, if parents choose to enrol their child in a school other than their designated school—fees may still be incurred.

Our government understands that times are tough for Alberta families and is working to make education more affordable. We believe that all students deserve access to a quality education in an Alberta school, and we are committed to reducing financial barriers such as school fees.

Further details about Bill 1 will be released in the coming months, and additional information will be available on the Alberta Education website at <https://education.alberta.ca/>. If you have questions about your school's school fees, please contact your school or school board directly.

Sincerely,

David Eggen  
Minister of Education