

Idaho State Board of Education

GOVERNING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION: V. FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

SUBSECTION: T. Fee Waivers

October 2025

1. Purpose and Authority for Fee/Tuition Waivers

a. Definition

A fee/tuition waiver shall mean a reduction of some or all of the approved fees/tuition specified in Section V, Subsection R, attributable to a particular student as the cost for attending an Idaho institution of higher education.

b. Purpose

The purpose in authorizing fee/tuition waivers includes but is not limited to the achievement of the following strategic objectives:

- i. The enhancement of education opportunities for Idaho residents;
- ii. To promote mutually beneficial cooperation and development of Idaho communities and nearby communities in neighboring states;
- iii. To contribute to the quality of educational programs;
- iv. To assist in maintaining the cost effectiveness of auxiliary operations in Idaho institutions of higher education; and
- v. To comply with Section 3679(c) of Title 38, United States Code, effective July 1, 2015, ("Section 3679(c)") which states that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall disapprove courses of education provided by public institutions if certain veterans and their dependents are charged non-resident tuition.
- vi. To comply with Section 209 (b)(1)(E) of Title II of Division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 (Public Law 118-42) effective July 1, 2024 which states that "...for fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Government of the United States shall require as a condition of eligibility for a public institution of higher education in any State (as defined in section 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003)) that is not a Freely Associated State to participate in or receive funds under any program under title IV of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), that the institution charge students who are citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau tuition for attendance at a rate that is not greater than the rate charged for residents of the State in which such public institution of higher education is located."

c. Authority

An institution shall not waive any of the applicable fees/tuition specified in Section V, Subsection R., unless specifically authorized in this subsection. Employee/Spouse/Dependent, Senior Citizen, In-Service Teacher Education, and Workforce Training Credit fees as authorized pursuant to Board policy V.R. do not constitute waivers.

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GOVERNING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**SECTION: V. FINANCIAL AFFAIRS****SUBSECTION: T. Fee Waivers**

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2. Waiver of Nonresident Fees/Tuition

Nonresident fees/tuition may be waived for the following categories:

a. Graduate/Instructional Assistants

Waivers are authorized for students employed as graduate assistants appointed pursuant to Section III, Subsection P.11.c.

b. Students Participating in Intercollegiate Athletics

For the purpose of improving competitiveness in intercollegiate athletics, the universities are authorized up to two hundred twenty-five (225) waivers per semester, and Lewis-Clark State College is authorized up to one hundred sixty (160) waivers per semester. The institutions are authorized to grant additional waivers, not to exceed ten percent (10%) of the above waivers, to be used exclusively for post-eligibility students.

c. Nonresident students who prove to the institution that they meet the eligibility criteria set forth under Section 3679(c) of Title 38, United States Code.

If a Section 3679(c) waiver is granted, and eligibility for veteran benefits concludes prior to completion of the degree sought, and a student has completed at least one semester at the institution, at the election of the institution, Section 3679(c) waiver eligibility may be extended through the duration of a student's program of study for up to three additional years to allow for degree completion. If a student receiving a waiver under this section has an institution-approved gap in education for a medical or other emergency, the institution may exercise discretion to reinstate the waiver.

d. Waivers to Meet Other Strategic Objectives

The chief executive officer of each institution is authorized to waive nonresident fees/tuition for students, not to exceed the equivalent of six percent (6%) of the institution's total full-time equivalent enrollment. The criteria to be followed in granting such nonresident waivers shall be as follows:

- i. A waiver may be granted to place a nonresident student in an institutional program only when there is sufficient capacity in the program to meet the needs of Idaho resident students; and
- ii. A waiver may be granted only when its use is fiscally responsible to place a nonresident student in an institutional program in order to meet a strategic state and/or institutional need, as identified by the chief executive officer of the institution.

e. National Student Exchange Program - Domestic

Waivers are authorized for nonresident students participating in this program.

f. Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

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Waivers are authorized for nonresident students participating in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education Professional Student Exchange Program and the Graduate Student Exchange Program. An institution may include a participating nonresident student in its enrollment workload adjustment calculation, provided the figure does not exceed the maximum approved for an institution by the Board.

g. **Institution Agreements**

An institution may request Board approval of agreements with other entities resulting in special fees if it is shown to meet a strategic or workforce need (e.g. reaching an underserved or isolated population) or to help facilitate collaboration between the public institutions as it relates to enrollment and course/degree completion. The discounted dollar value of these special fees shall be reported to the Board, for inclusion in the annual discounts and waivers report, in a format and time to be determined by the Executive Director.