



Irvine Unified School District

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August, 2009

Dear Parent:

As you are no doubt aware, the amount of money in California available to support public services and public education remains limited relative to other states, and the state fiscal crisis has presented even greater challenges to our schools. In light of the state budget, the Board of Education has continued to make difficult decisions in its effort to maintain a high quality instructional program for our students.

In 1992 the Board raised the athletic transportation fee from \$100 to \$195 and, at that time, a \$75 fee was instituted for co-curricular activities including pep squad, pageantry and marching band. The athletic transportation fee has not been increased in sixteen years; however, since 1992, the cost of busses has increased 65.64%. To offset the rising cost of transportation for our schools, the district has made ongoing contributions from the General Fund.

Last year, faced with both increasing transportation costs and the state's fiscal crisis, the Board took action to increase the athletic transportation fee to \$245 per athlete, per year. The fee for student performers also increased to \$125 per student, per year. This action was taken to avoid further reductions to our athletic program.

The annual \$245 per athlete transportation fee is payable as part of the athletic clearance procedure. For insurance reasons, athletes are required to use the transportation that is provided and any athlete who has not paid the fee, or is not exempt from paying the fee, will not be permitted to ride. Exemptions will be made for families who qualify for free or reduced lunch. If you believe you qualify for an exemption or have other questions, please contact the Athletic Director at your high school.

Though the athletic program is not required by the state, the district places a high value on providing opportunities for as many students as possible to participate and experience the benefits of a sound interscholastic athletic program. The imposition of this fee is not a Board of Education preference, but does represent a collaborative agreement which, if successful, will permit the continuance of our athletic programs.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Sincerely,

Gwen E. Gross, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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