

## Resources

To locate your district, find a school in your district  
and for other parent resources

### State of South Carolina

Webpage: <http://sc.gov/HOWDOI/Pages/FindaSchool.aspx>

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### For general questions about education:

#### South Carolina Department of Education

1429 Senate Street, Columbia, SC 29201

Telephone: 803-734-8500

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### If you would like to seek assistance of legal counsel:

#### SC Bar Lawyer Referral Service

Telephone: 803-799-7100

Toll-free: 800-868-2284

Webpage: [http://www.scbars.org/PublicServices/  
FindaLawyer/default.asp.aspx](http://www.scbars.org/PublicServices/FindaLawyer/default.asp.aspx)

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#### South Carolina Appleseed LJC

PO Box 7187, Columbia SC, 29202

Email: [scaljc@scjustice.org](mailto:scaljc@scjustice.org)

Additional information may be found at:

# LawHelp.org/SC

South Carolina's guide to free legal resources

## Education Cases Handled

Discipline  
Special Education  
Access  
Vocational Rehabilitation  
Student Financial Aid  
Other Education Matters

## Other Legal Representation

Consumer & Bankruptcy  
Employment  
Family  
Federal Income Tax  
Housing  
Migrant Farm Workers  
Probate  
Public Benefits



**South Carolina  
Legal Services**

*Balancing the Scales of Justice*

# PUBLIC SCHOOL FEES AND CHARGES K-12



## Our Mission

South Carolina Legal Services is a statewide law firm  
that provides civil legal services to protect the  
rights and represent the interests of  
low-income South Carolinians.

## For Free Services

1 (888) 346-5592

[contactus@sclegal.org](mailto:contactus@sclegal.org)

[www.sclegal.org](http://www.sclegal.org) / [www.lawhelp.org/sc](http://www.lawhelp.org/sc)

[www.probono.net/sc](http://www.probono.net/sc)



South Carolina  
**BAR FOUNDATION**  
Lawyers Sustaining Justice



## Free Public Schools

Children have a constitutional right to attend free public schools.

## Minimum Reasonable Amount

State law allows districts to charge the smallest reasonable amount for enrollment and minor fees.

Districts must consider students' ability to pay when they set minimum reasonable amounts.



**NO FEES OR CHARGES ARE ALLOWED FOR STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE MEALS.**



## Fees Must be Reduced for Students Eligible for Reduced Priced Meals.



## Common School Fees

- Enrollment
- Field Trips
- Mandatory Fundraising Goals

Some schools know they must help pay for some field trips and fees but you need to ask for help.

An extension of the classroom is a part of the free public school system.

**But**

You will have to pay for extra things like the year book, admission to school dances after school, book fairs, sports, etc.



## How to Reduce or Remove Fees

### Enrollment Fees:

When enrolling ask for an application for free or reduced priced meals.

Write a note or quietly tell the enrollment clerk.

If you are still having a problem, contact the principal.

### Extra Fees:

Write a note to your child's teacher or homeroom teacher during the beginning of the school year.

If the teacher still requires payment, then contact the Principal.

### What do You do if You are Still Having a Problem?

If you are still having a problem, contact the school district and report the problem or apply for legal services.

