



Tuscumbia City Schools

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Superintendent, Mr. Russ Tate
President, Mr. Ben Wilson ▪ Vice-President, Mr. Steve Finch
Mr. Grant Gunn ▪ Mrs. Stephanie Smith ▪ Mr. Buddy Whitlock

February 1, 2024

To: All Parents/Guardians

RE: New Tuscumbia City Schools Out of District Fee for 2024-2025

Per the Tuscumbia City Schools Board Policy Manual: 6.2.2 Admission to Schools

- b. *Non-resident Students* –Students who do not reside within the city limits of the City of Tuscumbia may apply for enrollment in the Tuscumbia City Schools. The Board may establish criteria for admission of non-resident students and may require payment of tuition as a prerequisite to enrollment.

The criteria for admission of non-resident students will be outlined in the Student Handbook/Code of Conduct or like document and will be reviewed periodically.

Beginning with the 2024-2025 academic school year, all new Out of District students to Tuscumbia City Schools, will be assessed a fee to attend. All students who are out of district and currently enrolled in good academic and behavioral standing will be “Grandfathered” into the system. “Grandfathered” students will not have to pay the out of district fee. The new Out of District Fee only applies to students who have never attended a Tuscumbia City School or who have a gap in enrollment. Returning students who fail to register during the open “Returning Student Registration” period, must then register as a new student and will be considered having a gap in enrollment. Students who have attended a Tuscumbia City School and withdrew from Tuscumbia City Schools for any reason will be considered to have a gap in enrollment.

Why the out of district fee? Tuscumbia City Schools is growing. This is due to our increase in academic proficiency scores, strong Alabama State Report Card scores, along with quality extracurricular activities and facilities. We also anticipate additions to our elementary campuses in the near future to alleviate our current growth due to current capacity issues and projections. Those who reside within the Tuscumbia City Schools Attendance Zone pay 13.5 mils of ad valorem taxes to the City of Tuscumbia. A portion of those taxes, about \$2,969 per student are then sent to Tuscumbia City Schools to offset costs associated with running our school system. Students who reside outside of our attendance zone do not pay these taxes.

The addition of an out of district fee is not to punish or reduce the number of students attending Tuscumbia City Schools, but rather to begin off-setting the amount of money that Tuscumbia residents pay versus those that live outside our attendance zones. The money generated by this fee will be used to off-set the costs associated with educating students, money that Tuscumbia residents currently pay.

How much is the fee? For the 2024-2025 school year, the Out of District fee will be assessed at \$300.00 for the first child. For each additional child attending Tuscumbia City Schools, the cost will be \$150.00.

When should fees be paid? *The cut-off for 2024-2025 Out of District fee this year will be July 15, 2024.* Any student who has not paid by this date will be removed from the PowerSchool Enrollment portal. A parent/guardian may pay in installments.

Who will have to pay Out of District fees? All students who live outside the Tuscumbia City Schools attendance zone who are not currently enrolled during the 2023-2024 school year, must pay the Out of District fee. Those students who reside out of the Tuscumbia City Schools attendance zone, but are currently enrolled in Tuscumbia City Schools, during the 2023-2024 school year, will be “Grandfathered” into the zone until graduation. Students whose parents/guardians currently employed by Tuscumbia City Schools will not have to pay the Out of District fee.

Are fees refundable? All Out of District fees are non-refundable after the first day the student attends a day of school in a Tuscumbia City School. Students who choose to leave or are removed for disciplinary, attendance, or academic issues will not receive a refund for their Out of District fee.

In summary, this new Out of District fee is not designed to deny current Out of District students from continued enrollment with Tuscumbia City Schools. This new procedure is only for those students who have never attended or who have gaps in their attendance in Tuscumbia City Schools. All current students will be “Grandfathered” into the system and will not have to pay this fee. Current Out of District students can still be removed for lack of attendance, academic progress, and/or disciplinary actions.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact the Tuscumbia City Schools Central Office at 256-389-2900.

Thank you,



Russ Tate
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