



## **A Message from Superintendent Hoernemann**

This message addresses the Avon Community School Corporation Textbook Rental fees in a Q&A format.

**Q: How are textbook rental fees established?**

More than ever this year, parents are asking us why they are paying so much for textbook rental fees. And some families with several children in our schools have remarked, "This is more like a house payment!"

**A:** There are many reasons that textbooks are so costly. The most important point to make is that this is bigger than Avon Community Schools. This issue faces all public school parents and frustrates most. The textbook rental fee is established within the Indiana Code (IC 20-26-12: [http://iga.in.gov/static-documents/b/2/e/b/b2eb5735/TITLE20\\_AR26\\_ar26.pdf](http://iga.in.gov/static-documents/b/2/e/b/b2eb5735/TITLE20_AR26_ar26.pdf)). Indiana is one of only 8 states in the country that does not provide free books to its students.

Textbook fees for Indiana parents vary by school district, grade level and classes. By state law, schools may charge 25% of the purchase price of the textbook which includes student assigned devices used to access those virtual learning materials. While we do our best to hold down the cost in providing quality instructional materials, families will still incur a textbook rental fee at the beginning of each school year whether it is for an actual or virtual book.

**Q: Our 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students are using 1:1 devices this year. Shouldn't that reduce our textbook costs?**

**A:** Curriculum resources that are available online are not free and the district must pay to utilize them. Students in grades 5-12 may carry fewer physical textbooks yet fees may not be significantly reduced. Many (not yet all) textbooks adopted by committee for each subject area are available online. Textbook publishers charge similar fees for access to "Virtual Textbooks" as they charge for traditional textbooks. As Avon Schools is shifting to more online curriculum resources, there may eventually be some reductions but this will not happen overnight. We always strive to be fiscally responsible to ACSC families while providing high quality instructional materials to our students.

**Q: How do ACSC textbook fees compare to fees at other school districts?**

A: The chart below summarizes textbook fees in Avon and other area school districts for Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. ACSC’s average textbook fee is the second-lowest of these area school districts. As students transition to secondary grade levels (typically beginning in 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade depending on the district), their textbook fees are based on the courses in which they enroll.

Grade	Avon	Brownsburg	Carmel Clay	Plainfield	Wayne Twp	Zionsville
K	\$112.00	\$122.00	\$121.32	\$120.92	\$108.57	\$100.60
1	\$131.00	\$136.00	\$170.31	\$121.80	\$128.42	\$161.62
2	\$116.00	\$123.00	\$166.43	\$105.80	\$117.27	\$166.35
3	\$125.00	\$129.00	\$165.83	\$96.45	\$165.29	\$195.54
4	\$122.00	\$128.00	\$188.90	\$92.70	\$156.74	\$185.13
5	\$129.97*	\$123.00	\$183.42	\$84.70	\$110.94	
6	\$132.76*	\$198.00			\$163.69	
<b>Avg</b>	\$121.20	\$137.00	\$166.04	\$103.73	\$135.85	\$161.85

*\*includes STEP-UP laptop rental*

Q: If 42 other states provide textbooks for public school students, what can we do here in Indiana to voice our concerns?

A: We are headed into a critical, long legislative session in November. During this time the two year budgets for public education will be set. This would be the ideal time to speak to your legislators. Be aware that parents of home schooled and private school students are eligible for a tax deduction not currently available to parents of public school students.

- Families who enroll their child in a private school/home school are eligible for a \$1,000 tax credit per dependent for education expenditures. (Indiana Code 6-3-2-22)
- “Education Expenditure” – This refers to any expenditures made in connection with enrollment, attendance, or participation of the taxpayer’s dependent child in a private elementary or high school education program. The term includes tuition, fees, computer software, textbooks, workbooks, curricula, school supplies (other than personal computers), and other written materials used primarily for academic instruction or for academic tutoring, or both. (Indiana Code 6-3-2-22(a)(2))

We are grateful for the questions and encourage all our parents to get involved in advocating for our public schools.


As always, I welcome your feedback. Feel free to email me at [mehoernemann@avon-schools.org](mailto:mehoernemann@avon-schools.org).

Sincerely,

Margaret Hoernemann  
Superintendent

 [@AvonSupt](https://twitter.com/AvonSupt)

*Educate. Excite. Excel.*



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ENCOURAGE ALL OUR PARENTS TO GET INVOLVED  
IN ADVOCATING FOR OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

