



OPPORTUNITY FUND

Program Overview

2009-10



Background

The Opportunity Fund was created in 2004 to reduce the economic barriers that negatively affect the educational experiences of students from economically challenged homes. For many of these students and their parents, education related expenses – such as field trips, class fees, musical instrument rentals, bus passes, yearbooks, athletic equipment, eye glasses, class planners, student/class pictures, graduation cap and gowns – are prohibitive. Without financial assistance, many students would not access academic opportunities and participate in extracurricular activities that enable and enrich their educational experiences.

Last year, there were 4,220 students in BVSD who participate in the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch program. Clearly, in the current challenging economic environment, there will be even more students/families struggling to make ends meet.

Opportunity Fund Goal

The Opportunity Fund was created to 1) decrease the economic barriers that prevent financially needy students from participation and 2) improve student motivation, engagement and success through increased access to academic and extracurricular activities.

Criteria

- Funds are to be made available to individual students for a specific purpose; the Opportunity Fund is not intended to subsidize all students in a program or class.
- Students given assistance must be identified as financially needy, but do NOT have to qualify for the Federal Lunch Assistance Program.
- Opportunity Funds are to be used for expenses such as those listed below and are at the discretion of the Principal of each school.

Class and Project fees
Entrance / Admission fees
Academic support (planners, tutoring)
Academic scholarships (summer school, school-based tutoring)
Additional books (advanced classes, book fair scholarships, etc.)
Exam fees (AP and other)
School related transportation (BVSD or RTD)
Field Trips / Outdoor Education
Graduation (Cap and Gown expenses)
Transcript fees for college applications, grants, or scholarships
Yearbooks, school pictures, event costs
Music / Arts expenses (instrument rental, materials, books transportation)

Athletic expenses and equipment, including cheerleader / Pom expenses
Club fees and materials
Uniforms (athletics, band, cheerleader / Pom)
Health related expenses (Sports Physicals, Health Exams, eye glasses)

Requirements

1. **Funds must be used within the 2009-10 academic year, with the understanding that any unused funds will be subtracted from next year's Opportunity Fund distribution.**
2. **Principals must complete and submit a Year End Report by June 7, 2010 to qualify to receive funds in 2010-11.** A copy of the report is available online at <http://impactoneducation.org/programs/student-support/opportunity-fund>
3. **Principals must make your school aware of the Opportunity Fund and the support provided by Impact on Education.**

Process

- Impact on Education distributed \$130,000 on August 24, 2009 to participating schools. By cashing the check, principals agree to use the funds for purposes outlined in this document.
- The amount distributed to each school was based upon the number of participating schools and the school's percentage of the overall population of students enrolled in the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) Program as measured by the October 2008 pupil count.
- Funds are expected to be used within the school year.
- Participating schools will be announced to the media, district, and school newsletter editors.