Fee reference table – distance education

Depending on the enrolment circumstances of the student, fees may be payable in order for the student to be provided a program (or a component) of distance education. Certain students who are liable to pay fees may be eligible for an exemption from paying a fee. Documentation/evidence will be required to support such applications that will be assessed against legislative requirements (as detailed in [section 53](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2006-039#sec.53) of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* (Qld)(the Act*)*. The school of distance education (SDE) principal may also waive fees, either entirely or partly, if satisfied of particular circumstances (as detailed in [section 54](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2006-039#sec.54) of the Act).

Section 70 and Schedule 2 of the [Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017 (Qld)](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-2017-0161) (the EGPR) prescribe the fee units for distance education. Fees increase each year in line with the Government Indexation Policy and are published on the [Fees prescribed in education legislation](https://qed.qld.gov.au/publications/reports/finance-and-budget/fees-prescribed-in-education-legislation) webpage. The following table outlines the enrolment circumstances and the required documentation for fee exemptions and waivers:

|  | **Enrolment circumstance** | **Supporting documentation/evidence to support application** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1. Circumstance where fee does not apply** | ***State school student studying subject/s at SDE***  State school student enrolled in only a component (i.e. subject/s) of distance education as part of an approved flexible arrangement. | * Base school principal to complete [SDE application for student enrolment form (state school-based students)](https://ppr.qed.qld.gov.au/attachment/school-of-distance-education-sde-application-for-student-enrolment-form-state-school-based-students.docx) |
| **2. Circumstances where fee applies but student is eligible for exemption**  **2. Circumstances where fees apply but student is eligible for exemption (cont.)** | ***Geographical isolation***  The student lives in a [remote area](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2006-039#sec.49) as defined by section 49 of the Act. | * Evidence of principal place of residence must be provided (e.g. utilities bill dated within the last 12 months). * Principal place of residence details will be verified by SDE against distances to schools and school transport routes. |
| ***Medical***  The student cannot attend a state school other than an SDE for more than 80 consecutive school days due to their state of health. | * A medical certificate[[1]](#footnote-1) must be provided. |
| ***Itinerant***  The student has an itinerant lifestyle due to the student’s or parent’s occupation, as described by [section 53(2)](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2006-039#sec.53) of the Act. | * Evidence of itinerant lifestyle must be provided (e.g. a letter from employer stating the parent is employed and their work schedule including dates and location(s)). * A student in representative sport will be required to provide a letter from the State/National association confirming their selection and an itinerary of dates and locations. |
| ***Suspension***  The student is suspended from a state school on a charge-related ground under [section 282](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2006-039#sec.282) of the Act. | * Suspension information will be verified by SDE in consultation with the Regional Case Manager. |
| ***Exclusion***  The student is excluded from a state school under [section 291](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2006-039#sec.291) of the Act, or from certain state schools under [section 298](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2006-039#sec.298) of the Act, **and** would be considered to live in a [remote area](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2006-039#sec.49) (as per section 49) if the school/s from which the student is excluded were taken not to be the nearest applicable school for the definition [remote area](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2006-039#sec.49).  OR  The student is excluded from all state schools under [section 298](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2006-039#sec.298) of the Act. | * Exclusion information will be verified by SDE in consultation with the Regional Case Manager. |
| ***Carer or parental responsibility***  The student has parental or carer responsibilities which preclude regular attendance at a state school. | * Examples of evidence for parental responsibilities could include the child’s birth certificate, Medicare card with child’s name listed, or Centrelink documentation. * Evidence for carer responsibilities could include a medical certificate dated within the last 12 months confirming carer responsibilities or Centrelink documentation. |
| ***Prospective mature age students***  The student has been refused enrolment as a mature age student at a mature age state school.  OR  The student’s principal place of residence is more than 16 kilometres from the nearest mature age state school. | * Parent or student must provide evidence that the student was refused enrolment at a mature age state school. * Evidence of principal place of residence must be provided and will be verified by SDE. |
| ***Corrective students***  The student is in custody at a corrective services facility under the [*Corrective Services Act 2006*](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/link?version.series.id=b359c1eb-adee-475f-8603-317b695aaee3&doc.id=act-2006-029&date=2021-11-23&type=act).  **NB**: Fee exemption may only be granted for the period in which the student is in custody. | * SDE will verify that the student is in custody. |
| **3. Circumstances where fee is payable and student is NOT eligible for exemption** | ***Home-based student (by-choice)***  The student is enrolled in an SDE although they have access to a local state school (also known as ‘by-choice’ students). | * N/A – Not eligible for exemption under [section 53](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2006-039#sec.53) of the Act. |
| ***Temporary travel***  Travel that does not meet requirements for exemption under [section 53](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2006-039#sec.53) of the Act. | * N/A – Not eligible for exemption under [section 53](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2006-039#sec.53) of the Act. |
| ***Non-state school student in Years 8 to 12 studying subject/s other than LOTE at SDE***  A non-state school student (including a student from interstate or overseas) in Years 8 to 12 who is enrolled to undertake a subject other than LOTE. | * N/A – Not eligible for exemption under [section 53](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2006-039#sec.53) of the Act. |
| ***Non-state school student in Years 1 to 12 studying a LOTE subject at SDE***  A non-state school student (including a student from interstate or overseas) in Years 1 to 12, who is enrolled to undertake a LOTE subject. | * N/A – Not eligible for exemption under [section 53](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2006-039#sec.53) of the Act. |
| **4. Circumstance where a fee waiver may be applicable** | ***Educational disadvantage and financial hardship***  Student would experience a significant educational disadvantage if they were not able to continue in the program and payment of the fee would cause financial hardship to the person liable to pay it. | * Statements that describe the personal, living or learning circumstances of the student that may cause them to experience educational disadvantage should they not be able to access distance education (e.g. lack of continuity of learning). * Current Health Care Card or other evidence of financial hardship. |
| ***Exceptional circumstances***  The SDE principal is satisfied the waiver is appropriate and reasonable because exceptional circumstances exist in relation to the student | * Statements from medical or educational professionals, youth or social workers, employers or others that describe the unique personal, living or learning circumstances of the student that would support distance education as being the most appropriate educational program for the student. |

1. ***Medical certificate*** means a certificate signed by a person registered under the Health Practitioner National Law to practise in the psychology profession (other than a student) or a medical practitioner. Medical certificates must be dated within the last 12 months. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)