

Pay to Participate Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**This document is available online at www.portageps.org by clicking on the "Pay to Participate" link and will be updated as needed. Please refer to the website for further information.*

1. What is the grade level for the Pay to Participate program?

The Pay to Participate program is for students at the middle and high school levels (grades 6-12) participating in extracurricular activities.

2. Where can I get the information and forms for Pay to Participate?

The information and forms are available online at www.portageps.org and can be found by clicking the "Pay to Participate" link.

3. If I want to talk to someone about this program, who is the best person to contact?

Coaches, athletic directors, activity advisors, or administrators from your school would be the best people to contact with regard to the Pay to Participate program.

4. Is Pay to Participate only for athletics?

Pay to Participate encompasses varsity athletics, all intramural sports, as well as certain clubs and other extra-curricular activities, such as Musical productions, Play productions, Debate, and Forensics (unless enrolled in the course = no charge) among others.

**There is no participation fee for Ski Club as it is already self-funded.*

5. How do I pay my fees?

Payment can be made by check (payable to: Portage Public Schools) or online at www.portageps.org by clicking on the "Pay to Participate" link. The online payment option should be available by Monday, August 8th.

6. Can I apply for financial assistance?

Yes; financial assistance is available for families demonstrating financial need. To apply, go to www.lunchapp.com and fill out the form. Families who meet the qualifications on the application will then have access to reduced rates for breakfast, lunch and Pay to Participate activities.

7. When are the forms and fees due?

The forms and payment must be returned to the school **prior to the first competition/performance.**

**Payments are not needed until cuts are made.*

8. *Where do I turn in my forms and fees?*

Please follow the direction of the activity advisor, coach, and/or your school's athletic department for the appropriate place to submit these items.

9. *If I'm on free or reduced lunch, do I also get a break for Pay to Participate fees?*

Yes; reduced rates for the Pay to Participate program are available for families who demonstrate financial need. In order to apply for reduced rates, families must apply online at www.lunchapp.com. This application is the same document used for free and reduced lunch benefits.

10. *Where can I find the form to submit an application for free or reduced lunch?*

The form to submit an application for free or reduced lunch can be found online at www.lunchapp.com.

11. *What if I have students at both HS and MS level... what family cap do I pay?*

The maximum fee for the program is set at \$275 per family if there are students at both the middle and high school level.

12. *Why are we paying one fee for the year instead of a fee for each activity?*

It is more efficient to pay one fee for all activities for the year rather than pay for individual activities, and it was a preference noted in the feedback from our community survey.

13. *Why can't the fees be different based upon the cost to run the activity?*

We determined that a streamlined approach to Pay to Participate is more efficient if there is one fee.

14. *What happens if my student has a season- ending injury, illness or family emergency during the season?*

Cases such as these will be considered on an individual basis, with collaboration by the coaches and families.

15. *What if I paid for one activity and now I have another student(s) who wants to participate in some activities that I didn't expect?*

You would need to fill out a form for the additional student and pay the fee for the activity.