

## Pay to Participate Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

*\*This document is available online at [www.portageps.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.portageps.org) by clicking on the “Pay to Participate” link. The online payment option should be available by Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **6. Can I apply for financial assistance?**

Yes; financial assistance is available for families demonstrating financial need. To apply, go to [www.lunchapp.com](http://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](http://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](http://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.

**16. *Does the fee for this program include the "trainer's fee" that we paid in past years?***

Yes, the trainer's fee is incorporated in the Pay to Participate fee.

**17. What if the sports/activities my student(s) want to participate in occur later in the school year? Do I have to pay now, prior to school?**

No. You can simply fill out a worksheet if and when your student decides to participate in an activity. School personnel will assist parents/guardians to make sure overpayments do not occur. The listed family maximums are in place for the entire school year.

***\*Updated August 3, 2011***