

# Frequently Asked Questions: Student Resource Scheme (SRS)

## What is a Student Resource Scheme?

A Student Resource Scheme (SRS) is an optional service provided by the school to offer a cost-effective alternative to purchasing textbooks, resources, consumables and/or materials individually. It ensures that all participating students have access to the same standard of resources, enhancing their engagement with the curriculum. If parents/carers choose not to participate in the SRS, they will need to provide these resources themselves.

Each school designs its SRS based on the resources needed for each student to engage in the curriculum. Items included in the SRS are published on the school's website. Schools may offer multiple SRS schemes, including:

- Student learning resources, e.g. textbooks, in-class consumables
- Personal computing devices, e.g. laptops or iPads
- Other educational programs e.g. instrumental music, choir, Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs where the school is a Registered Training Organisation.

Parents/carers can choose to participate in one or more SRS offered by the school.

## What does the Queensland Government fund in schools?

Under the [Education \(General Provisions\) Act 2006 \(Qld\) \(Section 50\(2\)\)](#), 'instruction' (e.g. teaching), 'facilities' (e.g. buildings) and 'administration' (e.g. school operation costs) are met by the State at no cost to students. State funding for schools does not extend to individual student resources like textbooks and equipment for personal use.



## What **cannot** be included in the SRS?

The SRS cannot include items or costs that schools should not charge parents/carers for, such as instruction, administration and facilities. Items like excursions, competitions, first aid supplies, safety equipment and internet costs are also excluded. All resources included in an SRS must be available for purchase by parents/carers who choose not to participate in the scheme.

Additional guidance on what cannot be included in the SRS is provided in the [School fees matrix](#).

## How much should schools charge for the SRS?

Each school, in consultation with their Parents and Citizens' (P&C) Association, determines the resources that will be included in the SRS and the fees that will be charged for those resources. The fees are based on the value of the items in the scheme, including:

- Owned items (the cost for the school to purchase)
- Used in class (the average cost of class resources)
- Hired to the students (based on the expected life of the item)

Fees may vary between schools, year levels, or for individual students.

Schools must consider financial impacts on parents/carers and explore ways to minimise fees, such as using surplus school funds, fundraising, donations and sponsorships.

The Government provides an allowance to assist parents of secondary school age students with the cost of education resources. This allowance, called the Textbook and Resource Allowance (TRA), is paid directly to the school and will be deducted from the SRS fee for participating parents.

## Do students pay the full SRS fee if they join school partway through the year?

No, the school will calculate a pro-rata fee based on the time remaining in the school year.

## Will parents receive a refund if their child leaves school during the year?

When a student leaves during the year, the school will calculate a pro-rata refund based on:

- SRS fees paid
- Any applicable TRA
- Deductions for damaged or non-returned SRS resources.

The school will then either pay the parent/carer a refund or send an invoice for any amount due.

## What options are available for parents who can't afford SRS fees?

Parents experiencing financial hardship should contact the principal to discuss options such as:

- Payment plans to spread the cost over the school year
- Fee waivers (partial or full) at the principal's discretion.

All discussions regarding financial hardship are held in strict confidence.

## What is an SRS Participation Agreement Form?

The [Participation Agreement Form](#) (PAF) outlines the terms and conditions of SRS participation. Parents/carers complete it at enrolment for each SRS relevant to the child's enrolment. Parents/carers need to complete a new form if they wish to change their participation status.

## Is the SRS Participation Agreement Form required annually?

No, the PAF covers a student's participation in the SRS for their entire time at the school. Each year, schools must offer parents/carers the option to continue or change their participation in the next year's SRS. If a parent/carer chooses to continue SRS participation, no new PAF is needed. However, if they wish to change their child's participation status, a new PAF must be completed.

## How are SRS fees communicated to parents each year?

Schools are responsible for providing parents/carers with annual information about the SRS, including the list of resources covered and the associated fees. This information should be published on the school's website and communicated to parents/carers.

## Can parents choose what items to buy and only pay for those items in the SRS?

No, the SRS works on the basis of bulk purchasing and hiring of resources across multiple years. In return for payment of the participation fee, the SRS provides a comprehensive package to students who participate. The SRS is not available in parts unless specifically provided for by the school in the fee structure.

## How do schools manage hired SRS items?

Resources hired through the SRS remain the property of the school and must be returned in reasonable condition at the end of the hire period or when the student leaves the school, whichever occurs sooner. If items are not returned or are damaged, the school may charge a repair or replacement fee.

## What is required if a parent chooses not to participate in the SRS?

Parents/carers who opt out of the SRS should complete the PAF to indicate their decision and return it to the school. They are then responsible for providing the required resources for their child based on the detailed list provided by the school.

## Can parents change their decision about SRS participation?

Yes, parents can change their mind by completing a new PAF and returning it to the school. If they joined the SRS at the time of enrolment and now wish to opt out, they must submit an updated PAF to the school before the annual invoice is due.

## How do schools ensure transparency in SRS management?

Schools must provide annual reports on SRS revenue and expenditure to their P&C Association. This includes details on total revenue collected, expenditure and significant procurement activities. Schools should also use designated cost centres for accurate tracking and reporting.

## Should schools review the SRS periodically?

Yes, schools should periodically review their SRS to ensure it continues to meet objectives and provide value for money.

## Where can schools find more information about the SRS?

For the SRS procedure, visit the relevant procedure page:

<https://ppr.qed.qld.gov.au/pp/student-resource-scheme-srs-procedure>

For further information regarding the operation of an SRS, visit:

<https://intranet.qed.qld.gov.au/Services/Finance/forms/Documents/srs-admin-guide.pdf>

For further information regarding what can or cannot be included in an SRS, visit:

<https://ppr.qed.qld.gov.au/attachment/school-fees-matrix.pdf>

For the TRA procedure, visit the relevant procedure page:

<https://ppr.qed.qld.gov.au/pp/textbook-and-resource-allowance-tra-procedure>

For payment rates and schedules for the TRA, visit:

<https://education.qld.gov.au/about-us/budgets-funding-grants/grants/parents-and-students/textbook-resource-allowance>