



# Sample language for donation requests

For PTAs, booster clubs and other groups that help support programs

## BACKGROUND

In September 2010, the ACLU filed a lawsuit against the state over fees, charges and deposits imposed on public school students, citing examples from 32 districts. A few months later, the case ended with a tentative settlement agreement.

This agreement, to be codified in subsequent legislation, affirms that students and parents cannot be required to pay money to gain access to educational activities, nor can they be charged for materials and supplies necessary to participate in educational activities. "Educational activities" has been clearly defined to include extracurricular offerings such as music, sports and some clubs. Moreover, the rules described above apply to all affiliated groups supporting district and school programs, including PTAs, boosters and foundations. It should be noted that the law does not prohibit schools and districts from requesting voluntary donations, and that's how IUSD intends to preserve some of its more vital educational offerings.

## SAMPLE LANGUAGE

While state law does not allow school districts to charge fees to students for educational activities, this program relies on financial contributions from participating families. Please know that a donation is *not* required to participate, and families that choose to contribute may do so at any amount. However, a suggested donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ will help sustain our program at its current level. Conversely, insufficient enrollment and/or insufficient funding could result in course cancellations.

## POINTS YOU MAY CHOOSE TO EMPHASIZE IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS

1. Contributions are voluntary, and all students will be allowed to participate regardless of whether a donation is made.
2. You are not required to purchase any of these items.
3. A voluntary donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is appreciated.
4. A \$20 donation to the art department is appreciated to help offset costs for this program and to maintain the quality of the art program that we have at \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Students who participate in this after-school sports program are encouraged to consider a one-time sports program donation of \$40 and a donation of \$25 per season for bus transportation. The program donation will help cover the cost of uniforms, equipment, coaches and officials for the year. The bus transportation donation will help cover the cost of transportation to the away games during the season of sport.
6. We appreciate any donations made to this program.