

# Frequently Asked Questions: Student Resource Scheme (SRS)

## **What is a Student Resource Scheme (SRS)?**

A SRS is a service provided by the school to assist parents with a cost effective alternative to purchasing textbooks, resources, consumables and/or materials from elsewhere, through reduced prices gained from the school's bulk purchasing processes. These resources enhance the student's engagement with the curriculum.

A SRS provides a convenient option that offers good value to participants and ensures participating students have access to the same standard of resources. Parents will need to provide these resources themselves if they choose not to participate in the SRS.

## **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' (school operation costs) are met by the State at no cost to students. State funding for schools does not extend to individual student resources such as textbooks, equipment for personal use and items used/consumed by the student in the classroom.

## **What is included in the SRS?**

Each school designs a 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. There are three scheme categories:

- curriculum resources, e.g. textbooks, student diaries, in-class consumables
- personal computing devices e.g. laptops or iPads
- other educational programs e.g. instrumental music, choir, excellence programs, Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs (where a school is a Registered Training Organisation).

## **What is excluded from the SRS?**

There are [guidelines](#) for schools on what is **not** allowed to be included, for example: excursions, competitions, first aid supplies, safety equipment, internet costs or any resource needed for assessment. In addition, all resources included in a SRS must be able to be purchased by a parent choosing not to participate in the scheme.

## **How much do I need to pay to participate in the SRS?**

Each school, in consultation with their 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 upon the value of the items in the scheme, this includes items that are:

- owned (generally equal to the cost for the school to purchase)
- used in class (as an average cost of resourcing the class) and
- hired to the students (based upon the expected life of the item).

Fees may vary between schools, year levels, or for individual students. The Government provides an allowance to assist parents of secondary school age children with the cost of providing resources to support their child's education. 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.

## **Why does my child's school have multiple SRS?**

Schools can provide a SRS to help parents to provide educational resources for the general curriculum, personal computing devices and/or other educational programs such as excellence programs. Schools will provide parents with a different participation agreement form and information on fees and included resources for each type of SRS.

## **What do I need to do if I want to participate in the SRS?**

A form called the [Participation Agreement Form](#) (or PAF) will be provided to parents/carers to complete at enrolment for each SRS relevant to the child's enrolment.





***Do I need to sign the SRS participation agreement form each year?***

No, the participation agreement form allows parents to participate in the SRS for the whole of their child's enrolment at the school. Parents only need to complete a new participation agreement form if they change their mind about participating in the SRS in any year.

***I have signed up to participate but how do I know what it will cost each year?***

Each year the school will give parents a list of resources included in the SRS and invoice parents for the fee.

***What do I need to do if I choose not to participate in the SRS?***

Parents should complete the participation agreement form and select that they do not wish to participate. Parents will then need to provide the resources for their child based on the list provided by the school. The school will include a list of costs for any school produced workbooks or resources that a parent is unable to buy elsewhere.

***Can I change my mind about participating in the SRS?***

Yes, by completing a new participation agreement form, and returning it to the school.

If a parent joined the SRS at the time of enrolment and now wishes to change their mind and not participate, then a completed PAF will need to be returned to the school before the annual invoice is due.

***Can I choose what items I want to buy and only pay for those items in the SRS?***

No, the SRS works because of the school's bulk buying power and the hiring of resources across multiple years. Because of this, the SRS does not work as a part participation model. Parents who are not participating in the SRS are still able to separately purchase the resources that are produced by the school as parents are unable to buy these elsewhere.

***Will I get the SRS participation fee back if my child leaves the school during the year?***

When a student leaves during the year, the school will work out:

- what SRS fees have been paid in advance, and
- any Textbook and Resource Allowance (see definition below) the parent may be eligible for.

However, the school may also take away any fees associated with damaged or non-returned SRS resources. The school will then either, pay the parent a refund or send an invoice for the amount due.

***If I join the school part-way through the year do I have to pay the full SRS fee?***

As a SRS fee is based on participation for a full school year, the school will work out a fee that is calculated based on the amount of time left in the school year.

***If I can't afford the SRS fees, what options are available?***

If parents are experiencing financial hardship they should contact the school's Principal to arrange a meeting to talk about possible options.

***Where can I gain more information?***

For Procedural information on the Textbook and Resource Allowance (TRA) visit:

<http://ppr.det.qld.gov.au/corp/finance/services/Pages/Textbook-and-Resource-Allowance.aspx>

For payment rates and schedules for the Textbook and Resource Allowance (TRA), visit:

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

For the Student Resource Scheme (SRS) Procedure visit:

<http://ppr.det.qld.gov.au/corp/finance/services/Pages/Student-Resource-Scheme.aspx>

