



### **Student Resource Scheme - 2021 Parent Information**

The Principal and the Parents & Citizens Association of Southport State High Independent Public School are proud to be able to extend to you the opportunity to take advantage of the Student Resource Scheme.

This letter contains important information about the 2021 Student Resource Scheme including how the scheme operates and the annual participation fee.

The purpose of the Student Resource Scheme provides parents/carers with a cost effective alternative to purchasing textbooks and/or resources elsewhere.

#### **What is provided by the Queensland Government?**

The Queensland Government supports students' education by providing funding for:

- Instruction by teachers
- Facilities (school grounds, building, amenities, furniture)
- Administration – staffing and resources to administer the operations of the school.

Funding for schools does not extend to individual student resources such as textbooks, equipment for personal use, and many items used by the student in the classroom. Supply of these items is the responsibility of parents/carers.

The scheme ensures that students have the resources required for them to engage with the curriculum for their education, and saves parents/carers time and money in sourcing the prescribed materials elsewhere. Savings are gained through the school's bulk purchasing practices and hiring arrangements. The scheme is not used to raise funds for other purposes, and revenue collected through the scheme is applied only to the resources and operation of the scheme.

The Student Resource Scheme is a cost effective option for parents/carers to purchase the required items for their child's schooling.

The cost of not participating in the Student Resource Scheme can vary (starting at approximately \$500) depending on the elective subjects chosen. Please see our 2021 Resource List on the school's website.

#### **The scheme will supply students with access to:**

- Student Identification Card [Replacement ID Card cost is \$10].
- School bucket hat [Replacement Bucket Hat cost is \$15].
- Textbook hire for each subject.
- Class sets of general reading books including prescribed novels.
- Administration of the scheme.
- Equipment hire – digital camera, audio visual equipment including a wide range of industry standard software.
- Use of equipment, consumable materials and photocopies for a range of subjects across all year levels.
- Printed worksheets/handout/notes and equipment prepared by teachers.
- Software site licenses for school and home use.
- Materials for subjects where the instruction is extended through providing practical learning expenses in excess of materials provided by school grants.

#### **The following items are NOT covered by the Student Resource Scheme:**

- Laptops and iPads
- Stationery
- Year Book
- School Photos
- Excellence Program levies
- Hospitality and Marine levies
- Activities and non-curricular events, for example excursions, camps, sport, Formals and Year 12 Jersey.

Individual payments are to be made for these activities when they occur.



**Student Resource Scheme Fees are \$350 for all year levels.**

**Payment Arrangement**

Several payment options including a single payment for the full year's fee or term instalments are available. An instalment plan can also be negotiated with the school.

Payments can be split into 3 installments:

Due date:	Amount
14 October 2020	\$150
24 February 2021	\$100
23 June 2021	\$100

**Please note: Excellence programs and Hospitality and Marine levies must be paid in full otherwise student is removed from the program.**

**Payment Methods**

- The preferred method of payment is BPOINT – Online OR by telephone on: 1300 631 073.
- Internet Bank Transfer: BSB 064-430 (CBA) A/C 00090200 (Southport SHS General).
- EFT in person at the Finance Office.
- Cash and cheque in person at the Finance Office.

**Financial Hardship**

Parents/carers experiencing financial hardship who are currently participating or wish to participate in the Student Resource Scheme should contact the school's Business Manager to discuss available options in confidence.

**Non-payment**

As per the school's financial policy, should your account fall into arrears, students will not be permitted to attend extracurricular activities such as excursions, recreational sport, camps, Formals or purchase a Year 12 Jersey. Parents/carers will be notified should their account fall into arrears. If after appropriate notification, payment is not received, the matter will be sent to the Department of Education debt collection agency.

**Contact Us**

For all queries regarding the Student Resource Scheme and its inclusions, please contact the school's Finance Department on 5509 1222.

Tracey Davis  
Business Manager

Nigel Hughes  
Executive Principal

# Student Resource Scheme - Participation Agreement Form

## The Student Resource Scheme

The Student Resource Scheme (SRS) is a user-charging scheme operated by schools to provide parents with a mechanism to access individual student resources that are not funded by the government.

Government funding for schools does not extend to individual student resources and equipment for their personal use or consumption. Supply of these items, such as textbooks and personal laptops/iPads, is the responsibility of the parent.

The objective of the scheme is to provide parents a convenient and cost-effective alternative to individual supply of resources for their students. Participation in the SRS is optional, and no obligation is placed on a parent to participate.

Terms and conditions for participating in the scheme are provided on the reverse side of the form. Information is also provided on the Textbook and Resource Allowance (TRA) where applicable.

This Participation Agreement Form applies for the duration of a student's enrolment at the school, however parents who are participating in the scheme can choose to opt out from the SRS in future years by completing a new Participation Agreement Form. Any new Participation Agreement Form submitted annually and received by the school will supersede the previous form lodged.

Parents pay the annual participation fee in accordance with the selected payment arrangement. If a student joins the school mid-year, a pro-rata participation fee may apply.

Parents not participating in the scheme must provide their student with all items that would otherwise be provided by the scheme as detailed in the information provided by the school. Parents can choose to join the SRS in future years by completing a new Participation Agreement Form.

To assist schools in managing and administering the scheme, parents are requested to complete the Participation section of this form and return it to the school.

If parents have not completed and returned the form before the due date indicated by the school in the SRS Annual Parent Information documents, the school will take the view that the parent does not wish to participate.

## Payment

On agreeing to participate in the SRS, a parent agrees to pay the participation fee as advised and invoiced by the school. For families experiencing financial hardship, please contact the school as soon as possible to discuss options available.

## Participation

**YES** I wish to participate in the Student Resource Scheme. I have read and understand the Terms and Conditions of the scheme (see reverse) and agree to abide by them and to pay the annual participation fee in accordance with the selected payment arrangement. I understand that I can opt out of participation in the SRS in any year by completing a new Participation Agreement Form.

**NO** I have read the terms and conditions and I do not wish to participate in the Student Resource Scheme. I understand I must provide my child with all items that would otherwise be provided by the SRS as detailed in the information provided by the school. I understand that I can choose to join the SRS in future years by completing a new Participation Agreement Form.

<b>School Name</b>	
<b>Form Return Date</b>	
<b>Student Name</b>	
<b>Year Level</b>	
<b>Parent Name</b>	
<b>Parent Signature</b>	
<b>Date</b>	

### Privacy Statement

The Department of Education collects the information you complete on the Participation Agreement Form in order to administer the Student Resource Scheme (SRS). The information will only be accessed by school employees administering the SRS. However, if required, some of this information may be shared with departmental employees for the purpose of debt recovery. Your information will not be given to any other person or agency unless you have given permission or the Department of Education is authorised or required by law to make the disclosure.



## Terms and Conditions

### Definition

1. Reference to a "parent" is in accordance with the definition in the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* and refers equally to an independent student.

### Purpose of the SRS

2. In accordance with the *Act*, the cost of providing instruction, administration and facilities for the education of students enrolled at state schools who are Australian citizens or permanent residents, or children of Australian citizens or permanent residents, is met by the State.
3. Parents are directly responsible for providing textbooks and other personal resources for their children while attending school.
4. The SRS enables a parent to enter into an agreement with the school to provide the resources as advised by the school for a specified annual participation fee.

### Participation in the SRS

5. Participation in the SRS is optional and parents are under no obligation to participate.
6. The school will provide parents with a list of resources supplied by the SRS to enable parents to assess the cost effectiveness of participation.
7. Parents indicate whether or not they wish to participate in the SRS by completing this Participation Agreement Form.
8. Parents must complete and sign the Participation Agreement Form and return it to the school by the advertised date.
9. This agreement is for the duration of the student's enrolment at the school, unless a new Participation Agreement Form is completed.
10. Parents are given the option annually to choose whether to participate in the SRS or not by completing this form.
11. Where a parent signs up to participate in the SRS they are agreeing to pay the annual participation fee for the items provided by the SRS.
12. Payment of the participation fee implies acceptance of the SRS including the Terms and Conditions irrespective of whether or not the signed form has been returned.
13. Where a student starts at the school during the school year, the parent may be entitled to pay a pro-rata participation fee to participate based on a 40-week school year.
14. Where a participation fee has been paid and a student leaves the school during the year, the school must determine if the parent is eligible for a pro-rata refund. This will also take into account any pro-rata of the Textbook and Resource Allowance (TRA) (see Additional Information regarding TRA eligibility) and any outstanding SRS debts (including any debts from damaged or non-returned items). Where the cost of outstanding debts is higher than the calculated refund, the parent is liable to pay this balance of funds.

### Non-Participation in the SRS

15. Parents who choose not to participate in the SRS are responsible for providing their student with all items that would otherwise be provided by the SRS to enable their student to engage with the curriculum.
16. The school will provide non-participating parents with a list of resources the parents are required to supply for their child.
17. All items included in the SRS must be able to be independently sourced, purchased and supplied by parents who choose not to participate in the SRS.
18. As the SRS operates for the benefit of participating parents and is funded from participation fees, SRS resources will not be issued to students whose parents choose not to participate in the SRS.

### The Resources

19. SRS funds received by the school will only be expended on student resources outlined in the school's SRS and will not be expended on other items or used to raise funds for other purposes.
20. In return for payment of the participation fee, the SRS will provide the participating student with the entire package of resources for the specified participation fee. It is not available in parts unless specifically provided for by the school in the fee structure.
21. The resources, as determined and advised by the school may be:
  - retained by the student and used at their discretion; or
  - used/consumed by the student in the classroom; or

- hired to the student for their personal use for a specified period of time.

22. All SRS resources hired to a student for their temporary use remain the property of the school. The resources must be returned by the agreed date or if the student leaves the school.
23. Parents are responsible for ensuring that any hired SRS resources provided for their child's temporary use are kept in good condition.
24. The school administration office must be notified immediately of the loss or damage to any hired item.
25. Where a hired item is lost, not returned, or damaged, parents will be responsible for payment to the school of the value of the item or its repair.
26. The replacement cost of any resource may be up to the maximum value (subject to depreciation where appropriate) of the acquisition cost to the school.
27. Parents may be responsible for supplying their child with other resources not specified in the SRS as advised by the school.

### Payment Arrangements

28. Payment of the participation fee may be made in whole, as per a nominated payment plan, or for another amount as approved by a Principal.
29. Payment of the participation fee must be made as per the payment methods nominated by the school.
30. Any concessions relating to the participation fee will be at the discretion of the Principal.

### Debt Management

31. Payment of the participation fee is a requirement for continued participation in the SRS.
32. Non-payment of the participation fee by designated payment date(s) may result in debt recovery action in accordance with the Department's Debt Management Procedure <https://ppr.qed.qld.gov.au/pp/debt-management-procedure>

### Parents' Experiencing Financial Hardship

33. Parents experiencing financial hardship who are currently participating in or wish to participate in the SRS should contact the school to discuss options.
34. Principals may vary payment options, negotiate alternative arrangements and/or waive all or part of the participation fee for parents experiencing financial hardship.
35. The onus of proof of financial hardship is on the parent.
36. The school may require annual proof of continuing financial hardship.
37. All discussions will be held in the strictest confidence.

## Additional Information

### Textbook and Resource Allowance (TRA)

- The Queensland Government provides financial assistance to parents of students in Years 7 to 12, to offset the costs of textbooks and other resources. Assistance is provided in the form of a TRA which is paid through the school. Refer to the department's website for current TRA rates <https://education.qld.gov.au/about-us/budgets-funding-grants/grants/parents-and-students/textbook-resource-allowance>.
- The TRA is used to offset the fees associated with participation in the SRS.
- Parents not participating in the SRS will receive the TRA directly from the school.
- Parents not participating in the SRS should contact the school directly if they do not automatically receive the payment.

