

Bakersfield College Student Government Association

Support for the Increase of the Student Health Fee

Should the KCCD Board of Trustees increase the assessed mandatory Student Health fee for every enrolled Bakersfield College student to \$18 for fall and spring instructional semesters and \$15 for summer instructional semester?

Currently, the KCCD Board of Trustees does require students be assessed a mandatory student health fee. If the fee increase is not approved, the Bakersfield College Student Health and Wellness Center will not be able to support the increase in health supervision and services, including direct or indirect medical and hospitalization services, or the operation of a student health center.

The Mission of SHWC

The mission of the Bakersfield College Student Health and Wellness Center (SHWC) is to further the health equity of the educational opportunity. This is accomplished by providing access to high value, student centered and culturally competent health services. Services which promote the physical, emotional and spiritual wellness of its students and their academic environment. This wellness contributes to the educational aim of our college by promoting student persistence and academic success in congruence with the college's mission, core values and strategic directions.

Background Information

Beginning Fall 2019 semester, The California Community College Chancellor's Office has increased the maximum fee for Student Health Services. The fee will increase to \$21 (Fall and Spring semesters) and \$18 (Winter & Summer terms).

Education Code sections 76355, 76360, and 76361 authorize the governing board of a community college district to charge health, parking services, and transportation services fees and increase those fees by the same percentage as the increase in the Implicit Price Deflator for State and Local Government Purchases of Goods and Services as published by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The last date that the Student Health Fee was increased was in 2010. The recommendation for the fee increase is based on additional services and resources provided to BC students in the areas of:

- Psychological Counseling
- The hiring of a Nurse Practitioner
- Mental Health Services and Resources

Financial Impact:

All eligible Bakersfield College student will be assessed the mandatory fee described above regardless if they use the direct service or not if so approved by the KCCD Board of Trustees. The increase is \$5 for the fall and spring semesters and \$3 for the summer semester. This is a total of \$13 increase annually for a student.

	Fall	Spring	Summer	Annual
Currently	\$13	\$13	\$10	\$36
Proposed	\$18	\$18	\$13	\$49

Expanded Services with Health Fee Increase

The Student Health and Wellness Center both provide direct intervention, outreach, and training/education to students, faculty and staff. With the increase in the student health fee, the SHWC services can expand to provide the following and more to our community:

- Nursing assessment and physicals
- Administering First Aid
- Campus Emergency Response and assess need for Paramedics
- Blood pressure and pulse monitoring
- Glucose monitoring
- Vision tests
- Tuberculosis testing and referrals
- Administration of oral and topical over-the-counter medications
- Administration of immunizations of flu shots
- Administration of immunizations for Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Hepatitis, B and others
- Facilitating monthly gynecological examinations
- Sexually Transmitted Infections testing and education
- Instruction and distribution of contraceptives
- Providing for anonymous/confidential HIV testing
- Self-weight monitoring and instructions on how to calculate Body Mass Index
- Referrals to health care providers and/or low cost health care clinics
- One-on-one information on health insurance, including MediCal and MediCal expansion and referral to local agencies that help with the application process
- Act as first point of medical contact for International Students and provide medical referrals
- Explaining insurance claims and billing procedures to International Students
- Provide low cost prescription medications when prescribed by SHWC Nurse Practitioner &/or Physician
- Telehealth therapy with Mental Health Therapists
- Additional office visits for mental health services
- Telephone consults with a licensed therapist to help with local referrals
- Collaborate with Kern County Public Health regarding communicable diseases that impact our students, faculty and staff
- Referral and visitation to Kern Medical facilities at low or no cost to the student

Who does it affect?

In accordance with Education Code Section 76355 and KCCCD Board Policy, all enrolled Bakersfield College students are eligible for the fee, except the following category of students:

- a. Students who depend exclusively upon prayer for healing in accordance with the teachings of a bona fide religious sect, denomination, or organization;
- b. Students enrolled in an approved apprenticeship training program;
- c. Students enrolled only in courses of two weeks or less duration;
- d. Students who are incarcerated; and
- e. Students who are primarily attending high school.

Can students get a refund of this fee?

Yes, if the student drops all courses within the first two weeks or less, and as determined by the KCCCD Board Policies and the California Education Code 76355.

Are students on California Promise or on financial assistance provided by the State or Federal government required to pay?

Yes, except as determined by the KCCCD Board Policies and the California Education Code 76355.

SHWC Revenue Trend

<u>FY Year</u>	<u>Headcount</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Difference (%)</u>
2014-15	25,321	\$661,249	
2015-16	27,627	\$535,150	-19.07%
2016-17	31,290	\$600,000	12.12%
2017-18	33,257	\$913,721	52.29%
2018-19	36,997	\$1,036,265	13.41%

SHWC Data Trend

<u>FY Year</u>	<u>Headcount</u>	<u>Clinic Visits</u>	<u>Difference</u>
2014-15	25,321	1,320	
2015-16	27,627	2,951	123.56%
2016-17	31,290	4,242	43.75%
2017-18	33,257	4,611	8.70%
2018-19	36,997	5,830	26.44%

Pro Arguments:

- Provides students the opportunity for affordable health care services
- Could improve student health resulting in increased retention and graduation rates
- Promotes alternative health care service, which can reduce student costs
- It will help students who do not have immediate health care
- Students will be able to use the services while at college
- Increase in services for our inner-city as well out towards rural Kern cities
- Potential Development of a telehealth care on mobile devices
- Increase in mental health professionals to see more students

Con Arguments:

- Some people dislike public health and would not use it.
- Students that do not use the SHWC will still have to pay the fee
- Inconsistent accessibility to community stations
- Everyone would pay the fee without an opt out ability