



STATE OF KANSAS

Office of the Attorney General

1st Floor, State Capitol Bldg. (913) 296-2215 Topeka, Kansas 66612

Curt T. Schneider
Attorney General

October 5, 1976

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION NO. 76-310

Mr. Merle R. Bolton
Commissioner of Education
Kansas State Department of Education
Kansas State Education Building
120 East 10th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66612

RE: Schools--Fees and Charges

Synopsis: Section 1 (d) of Chapter 304 of the 1976 session laws authorizes unified school districts within their state to make charges or assess fees for those materials and supplies consumed in home economic courses and projects. Furthermore, pupils may be charged for cooking utensils and sewing equipment provided they are permitted to retain ownership at the conclusion of the course or project.

* * *

Dear Mr. Bolton:

Senate Bill No. 899 as enacted at Chapter 304 of the 1976 Session Laws provides in part:

"The board of education of any school district may purchase, for the use of the pupils of the district, any of the following:

- (a) Workbooks and materials which are supplemental to testbooks used in specific courses;
- (b) specialized clothing and towels for use in physical education, shop, and science courses;
- (c) musical instruments for use in band or orchestra; and
- (d) materials or supplies which are

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consumed in specific courses or projects or in which the pupil may retain ownership upon completion of such courses or projects."

You advise that the question has arisen whether the bill provides authority for the collection of fees for materials and consumable supplies which are used in home economic courses or projects. Materials such as sugar, flour, milk and other food items used for cooking and baking are obviously consumable materials, and are in fact consumed when used in the preparation of foodstuffs in home economics courses.

Fabric and pins are likewise consumable items when used and incorporated in the making of wearing apparel and other products in courses therefor. Scissors and other like sewing equipment are not consumable items, of course, but charges may be assessed for such items, and cooking utensils, if pupils are permitted to retain ownership therein at the conclusion of the course or project.

Very truly yours,



CURT T. SCHNEIDER
Attorney General

CTS/HTW/cgm