

Palomar College Student Services
Health Services Fee Work Group

Recommendations

Subject

AB 982 signed by Governor eliminates the provision in the California Education Code requiring the exemption of certain students (i.e., BOGW eligible) from health supervision and services fee. This allows the district to determine if these students should begin paying the health services fee.

Recommendation

The Health Services Fee Work Group recommends: **that all low-income students (i.e., BOGW eligible) who were previously exempt according to Section 58620 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations from paying the Health Services Fee be charged the fee, effective Summer 2006.**

Justification

- “Here to Serve.”
- \$14 health service fee for a semester is a very minimal amount to pay for services currently being provided (i.e., 5 months) as compared to other public and private agencies.
- Services provided at no extra cost include:
 - Physician/nurse practitioner visit once or twice a week
 - Nurse visit Monday thru Friday
 - Educational services to students
 - Health promotional activities (i.e., smoking cessation, HIV testing, health fair)
 - Community referral
- Discounted academic program required physical exams (i.e., Nursing, dental, police and fire academy).
- Health Services Office is strictly supported by revenue generated and not funded by the District.
- Health Services has been operating with a negative budget that has resulted in not filling a vacant Nurse position since April 05.
- Funding will:
 - Maintain and increase physician/nurse practitioner and nurse visits
 - Increase availability of prescription medication
 - Provide new emergency response (ER) cart
 - Reinstate mental health internship counseling
 - Upgrade facility, medical supplies and equipment at both the San Marcos Campus and Escondido Center
 - Maintain and increase collaborative relationship with outside agencies (i.e., Vista Community Clinic and North County Health Services)
- BOGW students have access to other resources to cover the health fee such as EOPS and federal financial aid.
- If a student does not qualify after actually applying for federal financial aid, he/she can apply for an institutional grant to cover the fee.