



Responsibility of:	Darwin High School Board
Effective Date:	September 2025
Next Review Date:	September 2026
Target Audience:	DHS students, parents, staff

1. PURPOSE

This policy sets out the position of Darwin High School regarding requests for the school to sponsor students, groups or events. This includes financial or in-kind sponsorship, such as the waiving of Community Use of Facilities hire fees.

The policy ensures decisions are made equitably, transparently and in line with departmental guidelines and the school's financial responsibilities.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- Requests for the school to sponsor individual students or groups.
- Requests for the school to sponsor external or school-related events, including by waiving or reducing venue hire fees under the Community Use of Facilities agreement.
- Decisions made by the Darwin High School Board, as the school's governing body.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

Darwin High School Board receives funding under the Department of Education and Training's student needs-based model. This funding is allocated to delivering core educational and school services and does not include a budget for sponsorships.

The Darwin High School Board has determined that the school is not in a position to provide sponsorships, including waiving Community Use of Facilities hire fees, as there is no allocated funding for this purpose.

This applies to requests for:

- Covering costs for student participation in external activities;
- Providing financial or in-kind sponsorship for programs, associations or competitions;
- Waiving hire fees for the use of school facilities for events.

4. USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES – COST RECOVERY PRINCIPLE

Darwin High School facilities are available for hire under the 'Community Use of Facilities' policy which must be approved by the School Board. While schools do not operate for profit, hire fees are essential to:

- Recover operational costs (e.g. electricity, air conditioning, cleaning, security);
- Ensure responsible stewardship of public assets;
- Maintain equitable access to facilities for a wide range of users.

The School Board must consider:

- Whether the event serves the broader school community or only a limited group;
- Whether the cost recovery principle is upheld;
- The potential precedent set by waiving fees for one group or activity.

5. ALTERNATIVE SUPPORT

While the school cannot provide sponsorship, Darwin High School may:

- Promote appropriate opportunities to students through existing communication channels (subject to departmental policy);
- Provide letters of support for external grant applications.

Darwin High School Board may:

- Consider co-hosted or curriculum-aligned events where these are resourced and approved through school planning processes.

6. REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier if departmental guidelines or funding arrangements change.