حكومة دبي
GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI

هيئة المعرفة والتنمية البشرية
KNOWLEDGE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

# School Fees Framework

Knowledge and Human Development Authority

## The purpose of the School Fees Framework

The framework aims to regulate school fees and protect the students, and parents (as beneficiaries of educational services); as well as to provide a favourable environment for investors in the education sector, encouraging them to improve the quality of education in the Emirate of Dubai. This is achieved through a comprehensive mechanism, taking into account the educational and economic aspects and protects the interests of all stakeholders.

The fee framework has been developed based on The Executive Council's decision 43/2011, and has been revised based on The Executive Council's decision TEC/OUT/2019/194 and in line with the strategic goals of KHDA and stakeholder feedback, effective from academic year 2019-2020 onwards.

## General Definitions

**For-profit schools:** Schools that operate for a profit and are run by individuals, profit-generating companies, or organisations.

**Not-for-profit schools:** A school which is governed by an independent board with parent representation and operates for non-profit purposes with no parties benefitting financially, and gets its non-profit status from the Community Development Authority (CDA) as per their licensing procedure. Fiscal surpluses, if any, are invested back into the institution to further the pursuit of its goals.

**Schools with no fees:** Schools that don't charge tuition fees for providing their services.

**Education Cost Index (ECI):** This is calculated on a regular basis taking into consideration the submitted audited financial statements and other related data of private schools in Dubai and is published by **Digital Dubai Authority.**

## The scope of the School Fees Framework

This framework is applicable to all private schools in Dubai that have completed three years of operation. It is not applicable to schools that don't charge tuition fees.

## Services covered by the Fees Framework

This framework is applicable to tuition fees and the cost of school uniforms and books if these services are provided by the school. However, this framework is not applicable to any other activities and services provided by the school or by third parties.

## General framework for calculating the fee increase in private schools

**Not-for-profit schools:**

The proposed fee increase by non-profit schools is subject to approval providing following conditions are met, wherein the proposed percentage increase may exceed the announced ECI:

1. Board approval for the proposed increase.
2. Evidence of parental engagement and endorsement by the parents' representative.

**For-profit schools inspected for the first time:**

Schools which are inspected for the first time by Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau (DSIB) are eligible for tuition fees increase by ECI only.

**All other for-profit schools:**

School fee increases for profit schools are based on the performance of the school (as per the results of the DSIB inspections) and the Education Cost Index (ECI), and are calculated as per the table below:

| School | Eligible percentage |
|---|---|
| Eligible schools that have maintained the same rating as the previous year* | ECI** |
| Schools that have improved their rating from*:<br>a) Very Weak to Weak<br>b) Weak to Acceptable<br>c) Acceptable to Good | ECI x 2 |
| Schools that have improved their rating from*:<br>Good to Very Good | ECI x 1.75 |
| Schools that have improved their rating from*:<br>Very Good to Outstanding | ECI x 1.5 |
| Schools that have dropped in performance (from their current rating to a lower one) * | No increase in school fees |

*For for-profit schools in Dubai, the last inspection rating conducted by DSIB will be considered while implementing the fee increase as per the above table.

** The Education Cost Index (ECI) is a measure of the cost of education in private schools in the emirate of Dubai and is issued annually by Digital Dubai Authority. It is used to understand the expenses and costs related to providing educational services and includes a range of factors and costs, including:

| # | Factors and Costs |
|---|---|
| 1 | **Wages and salaries** |
| | Administration Staff |
| | Teachers |
| | Other Personnel |
| 2 | **Rents** |
| | School land rent |
| | School building rent |
| 3 | **Other Costs** |

## General conditions for fee increase

1. Schools rated 'Acceptable' and lower are required to submit (as part of their application), a KHDA approved action plan detailing how the school will invest in the educational process to improve the quality of education in the school.
2. If schools choose to re-structure their tuition fees to a lower fee structure, they cannot revert to the previous fees, and all fee increases (according to the fee framework) will be applicable to the re-structured fees.
3. Fee increases meant for a particular academic year can only be implemented in that year and cannot be carried forward to the upcoming academic years.