

6160 - Field Trips

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for student trips and to identify the general process to be followed for review and approval of trip requests.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the general expectation of the School Board that all student trips will be well planned, conducted in an orderly manner and safe environment, and will relate directly to the objectives of the class or activity for which the trip is requested. On all school-sponsored trips, provisions will be made for appropriate special education accommodations/modifications for special education students. On all overnight school-sponsored trips, background checks will be required for all chaperones at their own expense. Student trips will be categorized within three general areas:

a. Instructional Trips

Trips that take place during the school day, relate directly to a course of study, and require student participation shall fall in this category. These trips shall be subject to review and approval of the building principal, and shall be financed by school district funds within the constraints of the school building budget. Fees may not be assessed against students to defray direct costs of instructional trips.

b. Supplementary Trips

This category pertains to those trips in which students voluntarily participate and which usually take place outside the regular school day, but do not include overnight stays. Examples of trips in this category involve student activities, clubs, and other special interest groups. These trips are subject to review and approval of the activities director and/or the building principal. Financial contributions by students may be requested.

c. Extended Trips Within Minnesota, the Continental United States, or a Foreign Country

Trips that involve one or more overnight stops within Minnesota, the Continental United States, or a foreign country fall into this category. Extended trips may be instructional or supplementary, and must be requested well in advance of the planned activity. Extended trips within the school year should whenever possible coincide with school vacation periods. An Extended Trip Request form must be completed and approved by the principal, superintendent, and School Board. Exceptions to the approval may be granted or expedited to accommodate emergencies or contingencies (e.g. tournament competition).

d. Trips to a Foreign Country Other than Canada

As per Resolutions E-5-09-2628 (May 19, 2009) and E-11-10-2826 Independent School District 709 does not sponsor or accept any liability for foreign trips other than Canada. As noted in resolution E-5-09-2628, all staff who accompany students on any foreign trips other than Canada are expected to obtain a signed liability release and waiver form (attached) from the student's parents/guardians prior to the trip.

The School Board acknowledges and supports the efforts of booster clubs and similar organizations in providing extended trip opportunities for students. All fundraising activities for extended trip opportunities must be approved by the School Board under Fund Raisers in the Financial Report section of the Business Committee Report.

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