



Craig City School District

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Memorandum Item 10b

TO: CCSD School Board Members
FROM: Jackie Hanson, Superintendent
DATE: September 24, 2026
SUBJECT: CHS Student Activities & Travel Funding

Background

CCSD currently allocates \$115,000 in the General Operating Budget for high school student activities travel. As we're likely all aware, the cost of travel has increased significantly, especially airfare. Alaska Airlines has reported year-over-year fare increases of more than 20% in its core U.S. markets, although the actual increase experienced by CCSD varies depending on the specific travel schedule/itinerary.

In addition to regular Region V travel, CCSD currently funds 50% of state travel costs. State-level competition is an additional expense outside of the regularly scheduled Region V season and can result in significant costs for airfare, lodging, and transportation. As a reminder, the Board implemented a \$30 activity travel fee for each high school student athlete off-island trip beginning in FY25 to help offset some of these increasing costs, while student participation fees remained unchanged.

The Board also expanded the number of activities eligible for CCSD support when, in March 2026, it added CHS Track & Field to the list of supported activities. While parameters were placed around State travel, no additional funding was added to the high school student activities budget when the activity was added.

As the Board is aware, CHS Swim did not meet the minimum participation requirement in September 2026. While this means the funds normally associated with swimming remain available for FY27, the overall student activities travel budget will still be tight for the year.

Discussion

Taken together, the factors noted above highlight a need for a larger discussion about the long-term sustainability of high school student activities travel funding. With travel costs continuing to rise and the CCSD supporting additional opportunities for students, the current funding model will require careful consideration in future budget planning. In short, we need to begin planning for future years rather than addressing these pressures one year at a time.

In no particular order, the Board may want to consider the following options, or a combination of these options:

- Increase the current allocation of \$115,000 for CHS Student Activities Travel.
- Increase student participation fees, as suggested during the annual Budget Committee meeting in April 2026.

- Continue the \$30 student activity travel fee for each off-island trip, implemented in FY25 as part of the funding model; increase the fee; or eliminate the fee and instead adjust CCSD's overall approach to funding student travel.
- Fund all Region V travel and reconsider whether CCSD should continue funding 50% of state travel, given that state competition occurs outside the regular Region V season and represents an additional travel opportunity and expense.
- Establish a separate funding approach for state-level competition, rather than drawing those costs from the regular student travel budget.
- Divide the total student activity travel budget among the supported activities and require each activity to remain within its allocated amount. Under this approach, fundraising accounts would be responsible for covering any overage resulting from the activity's Region V travel schedule, or a trip could be eliminated from the activity's Region V schedule to remain within budget.
- Consider any other options the Board feels may be appropriate regarding CHS Student Activities Travel funding.

This is an opportunity to have a broader discussion about the long-term sustainability of high school student activities travel funding and how CCSD may be able to support our student activity programs and opportunities as costs continue to rise.

Suggested Motion: This agenda item is a discussion item only. No Board action is required at this time.