

### R 2340 FIELD TRIPS

#### Responsibility:

Plans for district sponsored field trips that are cooperatively developed by the faculty and Principal, and recommended for approval by the Superintendent to the Board of Education.

#### A. Definition:

A “field trip” is a Board of Education approved journey by a group of pupils away from the school premises, under the supervision of a teacher in accordance with Policy # 2340 Field Trips.

#### B. Approval of Trips

1. Field trips considered appropriate for each grade level or subject area will be arranged cooperatively by teaching staff members and the building administration and approved by the Board of Education prior to the date(s) of the trip.
2. To ensure the equitable allocation of budgeted field trip funds, each teacher shall submit a list of proposed field trips to the Principal at the beginning of the school year. The acceptance of the list does not constitute approval of any specific field trip on the list or of the number of field trips proposed by a teacher.
3. A teacher shall request approval of an additional field trip by submitting a written application to the Principal no less than six – eight weeks prior to the date of the anticipated trip. Field trip application forms are available in the main office.
4. The field trip application will include:
  - a. Proposed date of the trip (which should be checked in advance against the school calendar) and any alternate date(s);
  - b. The proposed destination and, if the destination is not generally known, its description and the reason it is selected by the teacher;



- c. The relationship of the trip to curriculum goals and objectives;
  - d. The location of the destination;
  - e. Transportation arrangements, the estimated cost of transportation, and the provision of safe and adequate loading and unloading areas for bus-borne pupils;
  - f. The time of departure and the estimated time of return to the school;
  - g. Provisions for emergencies;
  - h. Admission fees and tolls, if any;
  - i. Additional costs, including all costs associated with chaperones and for a school nurse to attend on non-school days and overnight trips; and
  - i. Provisions for meals, if any are required.
5. The Principal may deny a field trip request when:
- a. The application is incomplete;
  - b. The anticipated cost is excessive;
  - c. The proposed trip bears insufficient relationship to the curriculum;
  - d. The pupils involved will have been taken from the class for the trip and other activities for an excessive amount of time;
  - e. The trip conflicts with other scheduled events;
  - f. The class has exceeded its equitable allocation of field trips;
  - g. Unless otherwise indicated on the field trip permission slip, the trip will bring elementary pupils back to the school later than 3:30 p.m. or secondary pupils back to the school later than 2:30 p.m.;





# REGULATION

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- (1) The purpose of the trip and its relationship to the course of study;
  - (2) What in the trip the pupils should give particular attention to and ask questions about;
  - (3) Any reports, note taking, sketching, or the like pupils should accomplish on the trip;
  - (4) The assignment of background materials and research to enhance the value of the trip; and
  - (5) Rules of conduct and expected behaviors, both at the trip destination and in transit to and from the destination.
- b. Distribute and collect a permission slip for each pupil who will participate in the trip. The slip must be signed by the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The slip will include notice of:
- (1) The date, departure time, and return time;
  - (2) The destination and its location;
  - (3) The name of the teacher in charge;
  - (4) The means of transportation; and
  - (5) The purpose of the trip.
- Signed permission slips will be filed in the main office, and will be retained until the end of the school year.
- c. Make arrangements for travel and inform the Principal of those arrangements in writing no later than one week before the trip.
- d. Arrange with officials at the point of destination for:
- (1) The pupils' admission;
  - (2) The provision of any materials that will enhance the trip;



- (3) The services of guides, if necessary; and
- (4) The provision of meals, if necessary.
- e. Arrange for chaperones, who may be other teaching staff members or volunteer parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and apprise them of their responsibilities (see paragraph D. Chaperones). The number of chaperones appointed will be as indicated in the following chart:

Grade levels - Number of chaperones per pupil

K – 4            1 chaperone per 10 pupils

5 - 8            1 chaperone per 15 pupils

9 – 12           1 chaperone per 15 pupils

Minimum number of chaperones per school bus: two.

- f. If unfamiliar with trip destination, make a reasonable effort to visit the premises to become acquainted with points of interest, special features, potential problem areas, and the food and restroom accommodations.
- g. Notify other teachers or departments, as appropriate, of the nature of the field trip and the pupils involved in the trips:
  - (1) To permit other teachers to plan for the absences; and
  - (2) To encourage other teachers to incorporate the field trip experience in their lesson plans.
- h. Notify the cafeteria manager, no later than ten working days in advance, of the number of pupils who will miss lunch on the day of the field trip.
- i. Prepare a roster of pupils who will participate in the field trip.



- j. Make alternate educational arrangements for any pupils who will not participate in the field trip.
  - k. Ascertain whether any pupil participating in the field trip will or may require medication in the course of the trip and arrange for the presence of the school nurse, a registered nurse, or the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to administer the medication, except where pupils are allowed to self administer medication under statutory authority. If none can be present, report the matter to the Principal immediately.
3. On the day of the field trip, the teacher will:
- a. If the weather is inclement and the trip is to take place out of doors or involves transportation that might be made hazardous by the weather.
    - (1) Check with the Principal who may determine to cancel or postpone the trip.
    - (2) If the trip is canceled or postponed, promptly inform chaperones.
  - b. Take attendance and deliver to the main office a roster of the pupils who are actually leaving on the field trip.
  - c. Ascertain that the full complement of assigned chaperones is present and prepared.
  - d. Ascertain that all pupils participating in the field trip have left the school by the arranged method of transportation. Only in exceptional circumstances, approved in advance by the Principal, may pupils be delivered directly to the destination by means other than those arranged by the teacher.
  - e. Take all reasonable steps to assure that pupils profit educationally from the trip.
  - f. Make no change or substitutions in the trip itinerary unless an emergency has occurred (see paragraph E. Emergencies).



- g. Ascertain that all pupils participating in the field trip have left the destination by the arranged method of transportation. Only in exceptional circumstances, approved in advance by the Principal, or in an emergency may pupils be taken from the destination by means other than those arranged by the teacher.
- h. If a parent or legal guardian requests that another person pick up his/her child from a field trip at the destination, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must submit a written request in advance, that must include the name and address of the person picking up the pupil, which will be verified by at least two forms of identification.
- i. If the trip will bring pupils back to school after the end of the school day, ascertain that the Principal will remain on the premises until the pupils' return or has provided an emergency contact. Plan to stay at the school or assign a chaperone to stay at the school until the last pupil has been picked up or has departed for home by his/her regular transportation.

#### D. Chaperones

1. The teacher in charge of the trip is responsible for appointing and training chaperones. Chaperones should be persons known to the teacher to be responsible, dependable, and comfortable with children of the pupil's age and maturity.
2. The expenses of chaperones should be paid to the extent that the expenses of pupils and teachers are paid.
3. Chaperones will be assigned a specific group of pupils and are accountable for the welfare of those pupils. Pupils must not be left unattended; if the chaperone must briefly leave his/her assigned pupils, the chaperone should ask the teacher or another chaperone to take his/her place for the absence.
4. Smoking and the use of alcohol or drugs or the possession of weapons is prohibited for both pupils and chaperones.



5. Prior to their arrival at the destination, chaperones should inform the pupils in their charge of:
  - a. The conduct expected of them;
  - b. The time and place of departure; and
  - c. Any other information necessary to the conduct of the trip, such as meal arrangements and the location of restrooms.
6. Chaperones should attempt to regulate pupil conduct. Any significant or persistent disciplinary problem should be reported to the teacher for appropriate action.

### E. Emergencies

The following guidelines will be followed in the event of an emergency during a field trip.

1. An emergency on a school bus will be governed by the procedures set forth in Regulation No. 8630.
2. In the event a pupil is lost or missing, and all reasonable efforts to find him/her have failed, the teacher shall, no later than thirty minutes after the pupil is first found missing, call the Principal. If the Principal is not immediately available, the teacher shall call the assistant principal for further instructions.
3. In the event of a medical emergency, the teacher shall summon first aid and/or ambulance services. Any medical emergency shall be immediately reported to the principal. Within twenty-four hours of the trip, the teacher shall file with the Principal a full written report of the emergency and the steps taken to protect the victim's health and safety.
4. In the event of a delay that will bring pupils back to school later than anticipated and after the end of the school day, the teacher will, as soon as he/she can estimate the actual time of arrival, call the Principal or a person designated by the Principal to remain at the school as emergency coordinator. The Principal or emergency coordinator will:



- a. Inform parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the delay by telephone;
  - b. Make the school facilities available to waiting parent(s) or legal guardian(s);
  - c. Remain at the telephone to answer incoming calls; and
  - d. Confer with the teacher to be certain all pupils have been safely dispatched.
- F. Overnight Trips- Permitted in accordance with Policy #2340 only.
1. A field trip that will remove pupils from the district overnight must also be specifically approved by the Board of Education. The request and approval procedures outlined in paragraph B6 above must be followed.
  2. All of the provisions of these procedures are applicable to overnight field trips.
  3. Pupils and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may be required, as a condition of their participation in the trip, to attend a meeting at which they will be informed of the:
    - a. Purpose of the trip;
    - b. The particulars of the trip such as itinerary, departure and return times, duration, overnight accommodations, and points of interest;
    - c. Rules of conduct and behavior expectations, both on the trip and at the destination;
    - d. Need, if any, for special clothing, supplies, apparatus, or equipment; and
    - e. Costs for the trip, including all costs associated with chaperones and a school nurse. The daily school nurse substitute rate, meals, accommodations, and any and all other costs must be included in the cost to each pupil. If it is determined at the time of the trip that a school nurse is not required to attend the overnight trip,



those finds will be refunded to parents/guardians or used to offset out of pocket pupil expenses while on the trip.

### G. Follow-up and Evaluation

1. The teacher in charge of the field trip should express his/her appreciation to:
  - a. The chaperones, both lay and professional;
  - b. The officials and guides at the destination; and
  - c. Any other persons or representatives who assisted in the conduct of the trip.
2. The teacher in charge should incorporate the field trip experience into pupil's learning by:
  - a. Conducting a discussion and a critical evaluation of the experience;
  - b. Encouraging creative projects on themes experienced on the field trip;
  - c. Assessing pupils on information gained and attitudes formed; and/or
  - d. Assigning pupils written reports or presentations on the experience.
3. The teacher will assist the Principal in a critical evaluation of the trip that includes its benefits and drawbacks. The following are questions to consider, as appropriate to the trip:
  - a. Was the destination the best choice for the teaching purpose served?
  - b. Were there sufficient materials available to pupils as background for the trip?



- c. Did the trip experiences encourage new understandings, impart new knowledge, or stimulate pupils to new activity?
- d. Did the trip experience relate to other school learning experiences?
- e. Did the trip impart accurate information and a truthful picture?
- f. Were the pupils exposed to any hazard to their physical or emotional well-being?
- g. Was the trip worth the time and expense?
- h. Were there any serious problems with pupil conduct and management?
- i. To what extent, if any, did the trip generate cooperation and a positive relationship between the school and the community?

Issued: 4 June 2008  
Revised: 24 June 2009  
Revised: 29 June 2011  
Revised: 16 May 2012

