



Field Trips For Middle & High School Students

Board Policy (June 2003):

A team of school administrators reviewed the policy and provided updated guidelines for taking trips based on the amount of school time lost, issues of students' safety and supervision, and any additional demands placed upon student time to raise funds to finance the trip.

Guidelines generally prohibit overnight stay, trips 125 miles away and trips for competitions for elementary and middle school students. Amusement park trips for elementary students are prohibited. Middle and high school trips to amusement parks and any trip involving water-related activities must be approved by an area assistant superintendent. Trips outside the continental U.S. must be approved by the Board of Education.

The policy clarifies the difference between school sponsored trips approved by the school policy and non-school sponsored trips arranged by an agency with a school employee acting as an independent agent. The update indicates the school system may have to cancel trips and cannot guarantee reimbursements when cancellations occur.

Since the new board policy regarding field trips has gone into effect, I have been advocating for many of the field trips that involve waiver requests with members of the administration that will approve or deny those requests. The administration has requested my assistance in reviewing these waiver requests.

If you have submitted a field trip waiver request at your school level - please send Arts Education a copy of your paperwork - We will review - make a recommendation - forward to the appropriate cabinet members.

Once I review the documentation - I will either:

Recommend the waiver request for consideration at the next level

Not recommend the waiver request for consideration at the next level

The reasons I would not recommend the waiver request go forward would include:

- too much instructional time lost
- not directly related to the curriculum
- not appropriate for the content area
- not designed to enhance student achievement in the arts