

IJOA-R-2/JJH-R - STUDENT TRAVEL REGULATIONS INCLUDING OVERNIGHT AND OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL

Staff members are prohibited from soliciting privately run trips through the school system.

1. TRANSPORTATION

The use of vans or private automobiles for trips planned to include late night (after 8 p.m.) or overnight student travel is prohibited. Late night or overnight trips shall use commercial motor coaches. Trips planned to include late night or overnight student travel shall include a pre-trip check of companies, drivers, and vehicles.

Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) checks will be conducted in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter [71, Section 38R](#) for all employees and chaperones who participate in the trip. Trip organizers must use the "Certification of CORI Reviews by Independent Contractors" presented in Policy IICA-R-3. Firms that perform CORI checks on their own employees must sign a waiver verifying that CORI checks have been performed on their employees and contractors participating in the trip. The Superintendent or designee will ensure that the selected carrier is licensed for passenger transportation by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCAS). The district will not contract with any carrier that has a safety rating of "conditional" or "unsatisfactory." FMCAS ratings are available at <http://www.safersys.org/>.

The contract with the carrier will prohibit the use of subcontractors unless sufficient notice is given to the district that allows verification of the subcontractor's qualifications.

Each carrier shall demonstrate that it is covered by policies of insurance naming the District as an additional insured party thereunder, which policies shall be acceptable to the Superintendent and which shall, at a minimum, include: (1) a general liability insurance policy with limits of at least \$1,000,000.00 for each occurrence and at least \$2,000,000.00 in the aggregate; (2) an excess/umbrella liability policy on an occurrence basis "following form" of the primary coverage with a limit of liability of at least \$5,000,000.00 for bodily injury, property damage, personal injury, premises/operations liability and contractual liability; and (3) a policy of automobile bodily injury and property damage liability insurance (if commercially available) with limits of at least \$1,000,000.00 for each occurrence and at least \$2,000,000.00 in the aggregate.

All matters related to the safety of transportation companies, drivers, and vehicles are referred to the Safety Officer of the Police Department and the Director of School Transportation. They will work jointly to develop procedures to review safety and legal compliance issues related to any independent transportation service providers.

2. TRIP SCHEDULING

Overnight accommodations should be made in advance with student safety and security in mind. Whenever possible, trip schedulers should avoid planning student travel between the hours of midnight and 6:00 a.m. due to the increased risk of vehicular accidents during this time period.

Whenever possible, overnight trips should be scheduled on weekends or during school vacations to minimize lost classroom time. Non-academic field trips are considered "optional school programs" and do not count toward meeting structured learning time requirements. (Refer to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education publication Student Learning Time Regulations Guide.)

Trip itineraries must provide enough time for drivers to rest in conformity with the federal hour-of-service requirements and common sense. Trip scheduling should take into account the likelihood of delays due to weather, traffic, stragglers, and other unanticipated factors.

If substantially all members of a class are participating in a trip, the school should provide appropriate substitute activities for any students not participating.

3. FUNDRAISING

Group fundraising activities are preferred. Students should not be assigned individual fundraising targets. If students are charged individual fees for participation, every effort should be made to provide scholarships where needed. The amount of time to be devoted to fundraising should be reasonable and commensurate with students' obligations for homework, after-school activities, and jobs.

4. ETHICS LAW COMPLIANCE

In performing any acts covered under this Policy, all teachers and other District employees shall comply with the provisions of any law imposing ethics requirements on public employees and officials including G.L. c. [268A](#) and 930 CMR 1.00 - 5.00. For example, among other requirements, teachers may not accept gifts or gratuities which have an aggregate value in excess of \$50 per calendar year in connection with any student trips.

5. CHAPERONES

Chaperones will be required to receive an orientation which shall include itinerary, student management strategies, and medical information, emergency care provisions in the location of travel, communication systems, security measures, and educational objectives, and the contents and length of an orientation will be approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

The training will be coordinated by the trip organizer, who shall, in advance of the trip for which the orientation is provided, provide the Superintendent with a written certification verifying that the orientation has been provided for each chaperone, and that chaperones have received appropriate contact information, insurance information, medical information, and copies of telephone numbers of key individuals including the building principal and superintendent.

6. PARENT AND GUARDIAN DISCLAIMER

No student may attend or participate in a student trip under this Policy unless such student's parent or legal guardian has signed and provided to the District a permission form which shall include appropriate authorization for emergency medical care and administration of medication, as well as a legal disclaimer specifically agreeing and acknowledging that, among other things, the District has no insurance policies which provide coverage on the students or chaperones, or the personal property possessed or owned by either, and shall be free from liability for any damage to property or persons arising from any such student trip, including in tort. The permission form to be signed and submitted hereunder shall be memorialized in a form approved by the Superintendent.

7. PROCUREMENT

The procurement of all vendors for the trip must be done in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter [30B](#).

8. PRINCIPAL'S APPROVAL

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that any overnight and out-of-state field trip is in compliance with Items 1 through 8 of district Policy [IJOA](#) (Field Trips.)

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. [71:37N](#) A

School Committee first reading October 16, 2017

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