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R 2340 FIELD TRIPS

A. Definition

A "field trip" is any journey by a group of pupils away from the school premises that has been duly approved in accordance with Policy No. 2340. A school sponsored trip taken by pupils as part of a co-curricular activity or a class trip is not a field trip.

B. Approval of Trips

1. A list of field trips considered appropriate for each grade level or subject area will be prepared cooperatively by teaching staff members and approved by the Vice Principal. The approved list will be reviewed annually for additions, deletions, and revisions and will be distributed to teachers as a suggested guideline. In addition, the curriculum guide for a specific course of study may include suggested field trips.

2. A teacher shall request approval of a specific field trip by submitting a written application to the Vice Principal no less than two weeks prior to the date of the anticipated trip. Field trip application forms are available in the school office.

3. 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 and the route that will be taken to it;

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;



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- g. Provisions for emergency and sanitation facilities;
 - h. Admission fees and tolls, if any; and
 - i. Provisions for meals, if any are required.
4. The Academic Committee or Director of Curriculum 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 or with other demands on school buses;
 - f. The class has exceeded its equitable allocation of field trips;
 - g. The trip will bring elementary pupils back to the school later than the regular end of the school day unless prearranged with the principal;
 - h. The trip will occur during an exam period or immediately before the end of a marking period; or
 - i. The destination and trip activity are inappropriate choices for pupils of the age and maturity typical of the class.
5. A request for an overnight field trip must receive the preliminary approval of the Academic Committee before it is submitted to the Board of Education for final approval.
6. The teacher will be given written approval or denial of the teacher's request for a field trip. A denial of approval will include the reason(s) for the denial.



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C. Planning and Preparation

1. Each teacher who plans a field trip should take the following preliminary steps:

a. Determine that the proposed trip is the best method available for achieving the desired learning outcomes. Consult the list of approved field trip destinations for alternatives,

b. Consult the school calendar for any conflicts with the projected date of the field trip and for any clusters of field trips on or about that date,

c. Determine whether classes can be combined in a joint field trip for maximum economy,

d. Gather the information necessary to fill out the field trip application form; complete and submit the form.

2. If the field trip is approved, the teacher should take the following preparatory steps:

a. Discuss the proposed trip with pupils, giving particular attention to:

(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 or legal guardian. The slip will include notice of:



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- (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 with the building principal, who will file them until the end of the school year.

c. Make arrangements for travel and inform the Vice Principal of those arrangements in writing no later than two weeks before the trip.

(1) District-owned buses may be reserved by reverved by a Transportation Request form to the Transportation Coordinator.

(2) The transportation contractor's buses may be reserved by a Transportation Request Form to the Transportation Coordinator.

(3) Private vehicle transportation may be arranged only on the express written permission of the Business Administrator, and in accordance with Policy No. 8660.

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.

Arrange for chaperones, who may be other teaching staff members or volunteer parents or legal guardians, and apprise them of their responsibilities (see D below). The number of chaperones appointed will be determined by the principal or designee.



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e. 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.

f. 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.

g. Notify the cafeteria manager, no later than five school days in advance, of the number of pupils who will miss lunch on the day of the field trip.

h. Prepare a roster of pupils who will participate in the field trip.

i. Make alternate educational arrangements for any pupils who will not participate in the field trip.

j. 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 or legal guardian 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 who may deny the pupil's participation.

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, check with the Principal who may determine to cancel or postpone the trip. If the trip is canceled or postponed, promptly inform chaperones,

b. Take attendance and deliver to the Principal's Secretary 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,



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- d. Ascertain that all pupils participating in the field trip have left the school by the arranged method of transportation.
- 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 E following).
- 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 _____, or in an emergency may pupils be taken from the destination by means other than those arranged by the teacher.
- h. 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 appointed an emergency coordinator to remain on school premises. 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 or 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 pupils' age and maturity.
- 2. The Board will pay the expenses of chaperones 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 or her assigned pupils, the chaperone should ask the teacher or another chaperone to take his or her place for the absence.
- 4. Smoking and the use of alcohol is prohibited for both pupils and chaperones.
- 5. Prior to their arrival at the destination, chaperones should inform the pupils in their charge of:



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- 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 or her have failed, the teacher shall immediately call the Principal. If the Principal is not immediately available, the teacher shall call the Principal's Secretary to gain access to the Principal.
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 24 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 or 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 parents or legal guardians of the delay by telephone;



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- b. Make the school facilities available to waiting parents or legal guardians;
- 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. Day Trip Regulations

1. No student shall participate in a field trip unless a permission form, properly signed by his/her parents/guardians has been submitted. Students not wishing to participate in a field trip, or who have not returned permission slips from their parents/guardians, shall receive a program of classroom instruction within the limits of available staff, space and time.
2. Field trips will originate and terminate at the school, and only on a vehicle provided by the Board of Education.
3. No phase of a field trip may be changed while on the trip, except for an emergency. The building principal should be notified of any such change.
4. The teacher in charge shall be responsible for the proper supervision of students on all field trips. Parents/guardians are permitted to assist in such supervision.
5. Since field trips are an extension of the school program, students shall abide by the same rules of conduct and teacher authority as in the regular school program.

G. Athletic Field Trips

The athletic policy on field trips should be identical to the general policy of the entire district with the following exceptions - All athletic field trips must be in conformity with the N.J.S.I.A.A. rules and the N.N.J.I.L. rules.

H. Overnight Trip Regulations

The Board recognizes that school sponsored groups (i.e., clubs, band, classes, others) may participate in overnight trips, subject to final Board approval. In addition to the day trip regulations, the following will apply to overnight trips:



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1. Only members in good standing of school sponsored groups are eligible to participate in overnight trips;
2. Chaperones shall be selected at the discretion of the teacher in charge. Chaperones shall be responsible to the teacher in charge;
3. A copy of the trip itinerary shall be filed with the Principal, complete with the addresses and telephone numbers where the group can be reached during the trip;
4. Parents shall be provided with information regarding destination, transportation, date and time of departure/estimated return;
5. The safety of the student will be of primary concern. Form(s) must be completed by parent which include:
 - a. Address and phone number (home and business) where parent may be reached in an emergency,
 - b. Authorization for emergency medical treatment,
 - c. Health problems/medications,
 - d. Parental consent to regulations regarding student conduct;
6. Since field trips are an extension of the school program and safety is of paramount importance, students shall abide by the same rules of conduct and teacher authority as in the regular school program for the duration of the trip. These rules shall include:
 - a. Possession and use of alcoholic beverages and controlled dangerous substances are prohibited,
 - b. Adherence to curfew rules established by the teacher in charge,
 - c. Student use of any vehicle is not permitted,
 - d. Any other rules(s) established by the teacher in charge.

I. Follow-up and Evaluation



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1. The teacher in charge of the field trip should express his or 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 pupils' 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. Testing 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 by filing a written report of the trip that includes its benefits and drawbacks. The report should address these questions, 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?



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- 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?

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