

School trips designed to stimulate student interest and inquiry may be appropriate classroom extensions and may enhance learning in the classroom. School trips may help meet educational goals and objectives by connecting learning with experiences outside of the classroom environment.

A. AUTHORIZATION OF SCHOOL TRIPS

A school trip occurs when a student or group of students leaves a school campus under the sponsorship of the school and under the supervision of school employees to extend the educational experiences of that student or group. The principal must approve all school trips in advance. School trips that involve travel out of state and/or an overnight stay must also receive prior approval from board. To be approved, a school trip must (1) provide an effective method for accomplishing curriculum objectives; (2) be consistent with the educational goals of the board; and (3) keep to a minimum any disruptions of other educational programs and/or loss of instructional time. The superintendent shall develop additional procedures for the request and approval of school trips.

B. COSTS

Students must not be charged a fee for any required school trip for which credit is granted or that is necessary for participation in interscholastic sports. The board may impose fees for other non-required school trips. Any fees imposed for school trips will be waived or reduced for students who demonstrate real economic hardship. The superintendent shall establish procedures to review requests for fee waivers or reductions and to notify students and parents of the availability of and the process for requesting a waiver or reduction of fees.

C. STUDENT SAFETY AND DISCIPLINE

Policy 1510/4200/7270, School Safety, and the student behavior policies in the 4300 series apply to all students, school employees, and volunteers while they are taking part in school trips.

D. TRANSPORTATION

Policy 6320, Use of Student Transportation Services, applies to the use of vehicles for all school trips.

Any contracts with outside companies to provide transportation, lodging, or other accommodations related to a school trip must be approved in accordance with policy 6340, Transportation Service/Vehicle Contracts, and policy 6420, Contracts with the Board. The superintendent shall develop any necessary additional regulations governing transportation on school trips.

E. CHAPERONES AND VOLUNTEERS

All chaperones and volunteers accompanying students on school trips must meet the standards established by policy 5015, School Volunteers.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -288, -307, State Board of Education Policy TCS-H-009

Cross References: School Safety (policy 1510/4200/7270), Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Student Behavior Policies (4300 series), Student Fees (policy 4600), School Volunteers (policy 5015), Use of Student Transportation Services (policy 6320), Transportation Service/Vehicle Contracts (policy 6340), Contracts with the Board (policy 6420)

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