

POLICY

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

File Code: 6153

FIELD TRIPS

The board of education recognizes that field trips, used as a device for teaching and learning integral to the curriculum, are an educationally sound and important ingredient in the instructional program of the school.

A field trip shall be defined as any journey by a group of pupils away from the school premises, under the supervision of a teacher, which is an integral part of an approved course of study and conducted for the purpose of affording a firsthand educational experience not available in the classroom.

The board of education shall approve all field trips.

When field trips and excursions are to be arranged, the following guidelines apply:

- A. All trips, and the arrangements for them, must have advance approval.
- B. Costs must be ascertained.
- C. Each child who goes on a field trip or excursion must have written parental permission.
- D. Pupil safety must be of prime concern, and adequate supervision must be provided by staff aided by other adult chaperones if necessary.
- E. All trips must be well planned, properly timed, and related to regular learning activities, or to district goals and objectives.
- F. Each field trip should be evaluated by pupils, teachers, and the administration.

The Board may authorize field trips for which all or part of the costs are borne by the pupils' parents or legal guardians, except that no pupil in a special education class or pupil unable to pay the cost assessed shall be prohibited from attending a field trip. No pupil is to be denied the right to participate because of inability to pay.

The chief school administrator shall develop guidelines for planning trips suitable to the various grade levels, and regulations governing frequency, distance and expense.

The board does not endorse, support or assume liability in any way for any staff member of this district who takes pupils on trips not approved by the board. No staff member may solicit pupils of this district for such trips within the facilities or on the school grounds of this district without board

permission.

Pupils on field trips remain under the supervision of this Board and are subject to its rules and regulations. A pupil who violates rules or disregards the authority of supervisors on a field trip significantly endangers the safety of other pupils and may be summarily dismissed from the trip. The teaching staff member in charge will make arrangements for the dismissed pupil's transportation to home or school as appropriate. The cost of any such transportation will be borne by the parents or legal guardians of the pupil. The Board reserves the right to take further disciplinary measures in accordance with Policy # 5131.

The Superintendent shall prepare regulations for the operation of field trips that insure that the safety and well-being of pupils shall be protected at all times; that parental permission is sought and obtained before any pupil may be removed from the district for a field trip; that each field trip is properly planned, integrated with the curriculum, and followed up by appropriate activities that enhance its usefulness; that the effectiveness of field trip activities are monitored and continually evaluated; that teachers are allowed a considerable degree of flexibility and innovation in planning field trips; that no field trip will be approved unless it contributes to the achievement of specified instructional objectives; and that teachers are not permitted to make on-site alterations to a trip itinerary, except where the health, safety or welfare of pupils is imperiled or where changes or substitutions beyond the control of the teacher have frustrated the purpose of the trip.

Pupil Self-Administration of Medication

The board shall permit self-administration of medication on field trips for asthma or other potentially life-threatening illness by pupils. All conditions established by law and board policy shall be met (see policy 5141.21).

NOTE: THIS SECTION APPLIES TO THE EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION OF EPINEPHRINE ON FIELD TRIPS.

Epinephrine shall be administered via epi-pen to pupils in emergencies on field trips by the school nurse, his/her designee(s), the student's parent/guardian or the student himself/herself, in accordance with policy 5141.21 Administering Medication.

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BOE Reviewed: 5/18/09

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:36-21 et seq.; 18A:53-2

REGULATION

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

File Code: 6153R

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 # 6153. A school sponsored trip taken by pupils as part of a co-curricular activity or a class trip is not a field trip and is governed instead by Regulation # 6145.7.

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 Superintendent. As a guide, one field trip per year, per grade shall be considered, with the exception of 8th grade. 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. To ensure the equitable allocation of budgeted field trip funds, when available each teacher shall submit a list of proposed field trips to the Superintendent 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 a specific field trip by submitting a written application to the Superintendent no less than one month 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 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 file of departure and the estimated time of return to the school;
 - g. Provisions for emergency and sanitation facilities;
 - h. Admission fees and tolls, if any; and
 - i. Provisions for meals, if any are required.
5. The Superintendent 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 pupils back to the school later than 5:00 p.m.
 - h. The trip will not 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.
6. A request for an overnight field trip must receive the preliminary approval of the Superintendent before it is submitted to the Board of Education for final approval.
7. 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.

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
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 Superintendent, who will file them until the end of the school year.
- c. Make arrangements for travel and inform the Superintendent of those arrangements in writing no later than one month before the trip.
1. The Superintendent's secretary will contact the transportation company to obtain prices and reserve the buses.
- 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 parents or legal guardians, and apprise them of their responsibilities (see paragraph D below). The number of chaperones appointed will be in a ratio of 10 pupils to one chaperone unless otherwise determined by Superintendent or designee.
- 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 5 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 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 superintendent/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 superintendent/principal or designee 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 school 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.
 - 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 Superintendent or designee, 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 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

superintendent/principal or designee or in an emergency may pupils be taken from the destination by the 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 superintendent/principal or designee 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
 - 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 superintendent/principal. If the superintendent/principal is not immediately available, the

teacher shall call the coordinators for further instructions. Law enforcement will be notified if deemed necessary, after consultation with administration.

3. In the event of a medical emergency, the teacher shall summon first aid and/or ambulance services following the standing medical orders and body fluid precautions approved by the school physician (see attached). Any medical emergency shall be immediately reported to the superintendent. Within one day of the trip, the teacher shall file with the superintendent a full written report of the emergency including medical care provided and any follow up care (see attached accident form).
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 superintendent/principal or a person designated by the superintendent/principal to remain at the school as emergency coordinator. The superintendent/principal or emergency coordinator will:
 - a. Inform parents or legal guardians of the delay by telephone;
 - 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.
5. At least one week prior to the trip the teacher will check the medical needs of the class with the school nurse (i.e. food allergies; asthma; meds. that need to be administered; students with permission to self-medicate; blood sugar testing; any other medical conditions.)
6. The day before the trip the teacher will pick up the first aid kit in the health office.

F. Overnight trips

1. A field trip that will remove pupils from the district overnight must be specifically approved by the Board. The request and approval procedures outlined in paragraph B.5. above must be followed.
2. All of the provisions of this regulation are applicable to overnight field trips.
3. Pupils and their parents or legal guardians 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, if any, of the trip.

G. Follow-up and evaluation

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 superintendent/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 understanding, 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 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?