

POLICY 3.70 CURRICULAR, CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (FIELD TRIPS)

The Board of Education recognizes the value of curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities (field trips), as an extension of the classroom, enabling students to have access to diverse learning experiences.

The Board recognizes that carefully selected co-curricular and extra-curricular activities provide teachers with a means to enrich and expand learning and an opportunity to enhance areas of emotional and social development, leadership skills and human relationships. Such activities must be planned with consideration for accessibility and equity.

Guidelines

1. Definitions

- 1.1. Curricular Activity – The activity is an integral component of the curriculum, occurs during the school day, and all students are expected to attend. There are no student costs involved.
- 1.2. Co-curricular Activity – The activity is an extension of the curriculum, and all students are encouraged to attend, and should they not attend alternate learning opportunities will be made available to them. Some of these activities have costs and fundraising responsibilities, and financial hardship considerations apply.
- 1.3. Extra-Curricular Activity – The activity is not an extension of the curriculum, and student participation is fully optional. The activities are sponsored by the school to provide opportunities for student(s) to participate in activities and athletics which are related to the school program and supervised by teachers or other authorized personnel (e.g.: community coach). The majority of these activities take place outside regular school hours. These activities have costs and fundraising responsibilities, and financial hardship considerations apply.

- 1.4. Excursions – These activities refer to interest-based or commercial trips that may be provided by companies specializing in student travel and generally occur over a school closure period.
2. Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities are to supplement curricular programs and must:
 - 2.1. Have direct relevance to learning outcomes.
 - 2.2. Have educational benefits that outweigh any time loss from school.
 - 2.3. Have been planned to achieve specific learning outcomes or core competencies.
 - 2.4. Should be accomplished, wherever possible, without extended travel and overnight stays.
3. Education is a partnership involving the school and the home. In order to ensure there is strong family support for student activities being planned, the Board directs that:
 - 3.1. Informed consent is to be obtained for every co-curricular and extra-curricular activity to ensure that families are aware of the activity and are supportive of the student's participation.
 - 3.2. For student activities involving overnight stays, families must be consulted well in advance of any planning taking place with the students. Descriptions of the activity must include reference to financial support available to students.
 - 3.3. Schools must be extremely sensitive to the financial burden and the potential conflict between families and students that could be caused by possible expensive student activities; the ability of students to pay their share of the costs must not be a factor in determining participation. School personnel must ensure that financial requirements do not exclude students from participation on an activity.

- 3.4. For all student activities an appropriate medical response plan must be in place.
4. The Board recognizes that these educational experiences require many additional hours of staff time, and thanks staff for organizing these activities.
5. The Board neither approves nor sanctions excursions unrelated to learning outcomes or core competencies.
6. The school district and school Codes of Conduct will apply to all student activities.
7. All communications with students and families regarding costs and fundraising must include a statement explaining that fees will not be a barrier to student participation in school activities.