

LATE NIGHT AND OVERNIGHT STUDENT SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRAVEL REGULATIONS

Transportation

The use of vans or private automobiles for trips planned to include late night or overnight student travel should generally be avoided. Such trips should generally use commercial motor coaches.

Trips planned to include late night or overnight student travel will include a pre-trip check of companies, drivers, and vehicles. CORI and background checks will be conducted in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, section 38R.

The Superintendent or designee will ensure that the selected carrier is licensed for passenger transportation by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

The district will not contract with any carrier that has a safety rating of “conditional” or “unsatisfactory”. FMCSA 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.

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 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 Education publication Student Learning Time Regulations Guide.)

Trip itineraries must leave enough time for drivers to rest in conformity with 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.

Fundraising

The amount of time to be devoted to fundraising should be reasonable and commensurate with students' obligations for homework, after-school activities, and jobs. 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. For single-day Academic-Related field trips (in-state and out-of-state) that are attended by a majority of the students in a class, no student will be denied an opportunity to participate because of the financial inability of his/her family to pay the field trip fee. However,

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in all other instances, no student is guaranteed a full or partial scholarship for the purpose of attending any field trip.

Student Supervision

Students shall be accompanied by a sufficient number of chaperones, taking into account the trip scheduling and logistics. All chaperones, including parents and volunteers, must have a CORI check in accordance with M.G.L. c.71 s.38R.

CORI checks are recommended but not required by law for bus drivers who do not regularly work for the school district and who will not have direct and unmonitored contact with students. If such checks cannot be done, a chaperone must always be present whenever students are on the bus.

All participating students must submit a signed parent/guardian permission form that will include appropriate authorization for emergency medical care and administration of medication.

Adopted: October 6, 2015

SOURCE: MA State Board of Education Model Policy, adopted December 16, 2003
MASC

Legal Ref.: Chapter 346 of the Acts of 2002 (et al) approved on October 9, 2002
M.G.L. 69:1B; 71:37N; 71:38R 603 CMR 27.00

Cross Ref.: IJOA, Field Trips