

OVERNIGHT STUDENT TRAVEL ON MOTOR COACH

All student trips which include late night or overnight travel that require travel between the hours of midnight and 5:00 am on motor coaches must have prior approval of the School Committee. Initial approval by the School Committee is required before engaging students in fundraising activities. The School Committee will also consider the educational value of the trip in relation to the cost prior to granting initial approval. Trips requiring overnight travel by motor coach should offer significant educational benefits to students that clearly justify the time and expense of the trip, and are appropriate for the grade level.

Final approval will not be granted until all preparations for the trip have been completed including, but not limited to, all logistical details involving transportation, accommodation arrangements and fundraising efforts. The School Committee requires that final approval be sought no less than 15 days prior to the scheduled trip dates.

Teachers and other school staff are prohibited from soliciting for privately run trips in the Easton Public Schools. The School Committee will only review for approval school-sanctioned trips. The School Committee will not review or approve trips that are privately organized and run without school sanctioning.

LEGAL REFS.: Chapter 346 of the Acts of 2002 (et al) approved on October 9, 2002
M.G.L.69:1B;71:37N

CROSS REFS.: IJOA, Field Trips

Revised: April 20, 2017
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STUDENT TRAVEL REGULATIONS

1. Transportation

The use of vans or private automobiles for trips planned to include late night or overnight - student travel is prohibited. Late night or overnight trips will 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 checks will be conducted in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, section 3 8R.

The Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent 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.saferys.org/>.

The contract with the carrier will prohibit the use of subcontractors unless sufficient notice is given to the Easton Public Schools that allows verification of the subcontractor's qualifications.

2. 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 6:00 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 nearly all members of a class are participating in a trip, the school should provide appropriate substitute activities for any students not participating.

3. 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.

Additional Resources

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)

<http://www.fmcsa.gov>

United Motorcoach Association - Student Motorcoach Travel Safety Guide (includes "Motorcoach Safety Checklist")

<http://www.uma.org/consumerhelp/studentguide.asp>

Department of Defense's approved list of motor carriers

<http://www.mtmc.army.mil/content/504/approvedlist.pdf>

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