

**MAINE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
(MSSM)****MSSM INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL APPROVAL PROTOCOL****General**

The following protocol is written to clarify the approval process for faculty and staff considering taking MSSM students on international trips.

Background

Global education and programming have been hot topics in high-school education for the last 10 years. However, the risks associated with these programs have raised concerns from school leaders considering such programs. There also appears to be a lack of much concrete guidance in terms of best practices for managing risk in this evolving field. These issues reached an important head in 2013 when one independent school received a multimillion dollar verdict against it as a result of a lawsuit brought by a student for an injury sustained on a school trip:

CT Supreme Court Weighs in on Hotchkiss Case: Travel and exposure to the world outside the classroom walls is an important part of an independent school education, but it is not without risk. This stark reality was confirmed last week when the Connecticut Supreme Court upheld a \$41.7 million verdict against the Hotchkiss School for failing to warn students about the potential for tick bites prior to a trip to China, during which a student became gravely ill, allegedly as a result of such a bite.¹

Implemented: October 10, 2018

First Reading: December 1, 2018

Second Reading: March 2, 2019

¹<http://www.courant.com/news/Connecticut/hc-tick-bite-liability-20170811-story.html>