

214 OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL BY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to **manage** out-of-state travel by school board members as required by law.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

School board members have an obligation to become informed on the proper duties and functions of a school board member, to become familiar with issues that may affect the school district, to acquire a basic understanding of school finance and budgeting, and to acquire sufficient knowledge to comply with federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, and school district policies that relate to their functions as school board members. Occasionally, it may be appropriate for school board members to travel out of state to fulfill their obligations.

III. APPROPRIATE TRAVEL

- A. Travel outside the state is appropriate when the school board finds it proper for school board members to acquire knowledge and information necessary to allow them to carry out their responsibilities as school board members. Travel to regional or national meetings is presumed to fulfill this purpose. Travel to out-of-state meetings for which the member intends to seek reimbursement from the school district should be preapproved by the school board.
- B. School board members are permitted to travel to and attend one (1) out-of-state meeting per calendar year. An additional out-of-state meeting per calendar year may be permitted if school board members are presenting at an out-of-state meeting.
- C. School board members will not be allowed to travel to out-of-state meetings during the last six (6) months of their current term unless presenting at an out-of-state meeting.

IV. REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES

Expenses to be reimbursed may include transportation, meals, lodging, registration fees, required materials, parking fees, tips, and other reasonable and necessary school district-related expenses.

V. REIMBURSEMENT

- A. Requests for reimbursement must be itemized on the official school district form and are to be submitted to the designated administrator. Receipts for lodging, commercial transportation, registration, and other reasonable and necessary expenses must be attached to the reimbursement form.

- B. Automobile travel shall be reimbursed at the mileage rate set by the school board. Commercial transportation shall reflect economy fares and shall be reimbursed only for the actual cost of the trip.
- C. Amounts to be reimbursed shall be within the school board's approved budget allocations, including attendance at workshops and conventions.

VI. ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

The Executive Director of Business Services shall develop a schedule of reimbursement rates for school district business expenses, including those expenses requiring advance approval and specific rates of reimbursement. The Executive Director of Business Services shall also develop directives and guidelines to address methods and times for submission of requests for reimbursement.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 2 (School Board Member Training)
Minn. Stat. § 471.661 (Out-of-State Travel)
Minn. Stat. § 471.665 (Mileage Allowances)
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 1035 (Aug. 23, 1999) (Retreat Expenses)
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 161b-12 (Aug. 4, 1997) (Transportation Expenses)

Cross References:

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 212 (School Board Member Development)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 412 (Expense Reimbursement)