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BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Extraordinary Educational Opportunities

From time to time, students encounter an exceptional opportunity for an experience of an educational nature. While these events may not be part of their schoolwork, they provide an excellent chance to further their education. Under certain circumstances, the days devoted to these opportunities can count as excused absences for students whose absences already total nine for the school year (for a child with fewer than nine absences, parents may excuse the child's absence via a written note provided within ten days of the absence).

To qualify as an extraordinary educational opportunity, an experience must meet the following criteria:

- . The opportunity must be educational in nature. It must have a learning objective related to the student's coursework or plan of study. Not all memorable and/or life experiences would be considered educational and, therefore, would not be available for this exemption.
- A. It must be an opportunity not ordinarily available to the student.
- B. It must be grade and developmentally appropriate.
- C. The content of the experience must be highly relevant to the student. While some opportunities will be relevant to all students, other will contain very specific content that would limit their relevance to a smaller group of students. For example, a trumpet lesson from jazz great Wynton Marsalis would be very relevant to students who play trumpet, but not to other who do not play trumpet.

Note: Criteria C and D above may mean that an exceptional educational opportunity exemption may be approved for one family member but not for another attending the same event/opportunity. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. **Requests may be granted with the requirement that certain conditions be met. Should these conditions fail to be met, approvals may be withdrawn by the district.**

Some examples of extraordinary educational opportunities include:

- The opportunity to attend a master class with Itzhak Perlman; or
- An astronaut-led, behind-the-scenes tour of the Kennedy Space Center.

Some examples of activities that do not qualify as extraordinary educational opportunities include:

- Family vacations; or
- Going to a concert of a favorite music star; or
- Attending a seasonal sport camp.

In addition, the opportunity must be one that cannot be accessed by the student during school vacations or the summer break.

Process for submitting a request for an extraordinary educational opportunity

To request that the district grant permission to a student for an extraordinary educational opportunity, the parent or guardian of the student should submit the accompanying form (see below), with the signature of both the student and parent or guardian, and include additional documentation (where available). Forms must be submitted prior to the opportunity. When more than one child is involved in the request, a copy of the form should be submitted for each child. Forms must be submitted for each school year for which extraordinary educational opportunity permission is requested.

Approvals

All approvals for such opportunities will be provided by the district and will:

- . Be in written form;
- A. Detail any requirements placed upon the student as a condition of approval;

PLEASE NOTE: The administration may withdraw its approval if the opportunity is canceled or the student fails to meet the mutually agreed on requirements of the approval.
- B. Include the specific days approved for the opportunities; and
- C. Include a requirement that the participating student share the experience with other students and/or staff upon return or completion of the opportunity for benefit of the larger school community. The expectation is that sharing the experience will not be purely informational but will contribute to the academic or social-emotional learning of classmates.

Extraordinary Educational Opportunities Request Form

Please complete one form per child and per experience and per school year

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Date(s) of Opportunity: _____

Name of Educational Opportunity: _____

Provider/Location of Educational Opportunity: _____

What are the learning objectives for this educational opportunity?

How does this learning connect to the student's coursework?

How will the student share this new learning with classmates?

What prevents the student from accessing this opportunity during a school vacation or over the summer break?

Please list any additional documentation provided.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return this form and any other documentation to:

Office of the Assistant Superintendent
Branford Public Schools
185 Damascus Road
Branford, CT 06405
Email: ebreedlove@branfordschools.org

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For Office Use Only

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Request for Extraordinary Educational Opportunity is Approved Not Approved

Conditions of Approval:

Other Comments:

Superintendent or Designee:

_____ (signature)

_____ (print name)

_____ (title)