FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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TO: Principals, Head Teachers, and Activity Coordinators

FROM: FNSBSD Business Services Coordinator/Risk Liaison - Jennifer Rindlisbacher

DATE: September 22, 2025

SUBJECT: Water and Ice Activities

MEMORANDUM

This memo outlines requirements for all school-sponsored or school-related water and ice activities. These requirements apply at any point in time throughout the year when activities are coordinated by district staff or are representing the school district. This applies to any and all field trips or activities that take place at, on, or near lakes, rivers, or sloughs, swimming pools, as well as activities involving dunk tanks or other water-related elements, including both ice and water.

This memo does **not** apply to regularly scheduled swim, dive, or hockey practices and competitions, or school district swim classes.

Water Safety Plan and Approval

Any activity covered by this memo requires a water safety plan to be submitted to the district's Risk Liaison for approval at least one week prior to the event.

Examples of activities that fall under this memo include:

- Recreational swimming (including hotel pools)
- Water rescue training
- Water or ice testing
- Canoeing, kayaking, or boat transportation
- Ice skating or ice fishing

This list is not all-inclusive.

Additional Requirements

Due to the higher risk associated with these activities, most, if not all, approved water and ice activities will require a field trip insurance request as well.

Please note that water activities may never be used for out-of-season conditioning, team practice, or for team building purposes.

In addition to basic safety measures, your water safety plan may need to include the following:

- Proof of a lifeguard certificate (at least one certified instructor per trip)
- Current Red Cross or CPR certificates for all instructors
- Vessels approved by the Coast Guard or another responsible government agency for the type of water travel planned
- A Commercial License and Boating Certificate from the Coast Guard for any vessel operator

Email questions and safety plans to risk-liaison@k12northstar.org or call 452-2000 ext. 11303 Thank you