



Field Trips and Foreign Travel

The Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) recognizes the field trip as an integral part of the instructional program.

Field trips shall demonstrate recognition of students' needs, interests, and abilities as evidenced by careful planning; they shall be designed to support, enhance, and extend, classroom instruction and curriculum at all levels; and they shall capitalize on resources including historic sites, museums, and cultural exhibits, expanding students' horizons beyond the immediate community. When participating in field trips, students have the opportunity to develop and foster skills in real world settings, as well as to apply information learned in an academic setting to a practical setting. As an outgrowth of participation in field trips, students shall engage in reflection and meaningful follow-up.

Field trips, clearly aligned to and a logical outgrowth of the Essential Curriculum, shall be available to Baltimore County Public School (BCPS) students as part of a planned program. Enrichment through field trips is not intended to supplant this Essential Curriculum. While field trips serve as one means for broadening student experiences, the safety and security of the students, as well as the appropriate use of instructional time and personnel, are foremost in importance.

While on an approved field trip, participating students are expected to adhere to behavior expectations outlined in Board Policy 5550, STUDENTS: Conduct, Disruptive Behavior, and Board Policy 5560, STUDENTS: Conduct, Suspension or Expulsion.

The Board further recognizes that secondary students may desire to participate in foreign travel programs which provide a unique opportunity for students to broaden their knowledge of other cultures. It is the expectation of the Board that the staff shall consider the safety and security of students in planning and granting approval for foreign travel.

Further, the staff shall inform the Superintendent of the foreign travel programs operating in BCPS.

Specific information shall be made available to parents, guardians, and interested persons regarding the educational value related to the curriculum, the risks of financial loss, and logistics. While foreign travel is a vehicle for extending student experiences, the appropriate use of instructional time and personnel is foremost in importance.

While on approved foreign travel, participating students are to adhere to behavior expectations outlined in Board Policy 5550, STUDENTS: Conduct, Disruptive Behavior, and Board Policy 5560, STUDENTS: Conduct, Suspension or Expulsion.

The Board does not assume financial liability for field trips or foreign travel including, but not limited to, refunds or cancellations for any reason.

Legal References: *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article, §7-308
COMAR 13A.08.01.01

Related Policies: Board of Education Policy 5550, *Disruptive Behavior*
Board of Education Policy 5560, *Suspension or Expulsion*
Board of Education Policy 8362, *Gifts*
Board of Education Policy 8363, *Conflict of Interest*

Policy
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Board of Education of Baltimore County