

Adopted: Orig.6/23/2013

Revised: 8/25/2020

209 OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL BY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to control 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 District, to acquire a basic understanding of 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

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 of the National School Boards Association is presumed to fulfill this purpose. Travel to other out-of-state meetings for which the member intends to seek reimbursement from the District should be pre-approved by the School Board.

IV. REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES

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

V. REIMBURSEMENT

- A. Requests for reimbursement must be itemized on the official District form 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 and are to be submitted to the Finance Committee. Receipts for lodging, meals, and registration fees must only be those necessary for 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 Finance Committee shall develop a schedule of reimbursement rates for District business expenses, including those expenses requiring advance approval and specific rates of reimbursement. The Finance Committee shall also develop directives and guidelines to address methods and times for submission of requests for reimbursement.

VII. ANNUAL REVIEW

This policy must be annually reviewed by the School Board.

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. No. 1035 (August 23, 1999) (Retreat Expenses)
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 161b-12 (August 4, 1997) (Transportation Expenses)

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