

POLICY	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND
FIELD TRIPS AND OVERNIGHT TRAVEL-STUDY PROGRAMS	SECTION 414
	Approved: 7/12/06

414 Field Trips and Overnight Travel-Study Programs

- A. Field trips represent an integral part of the curriculum when directly associated with a particular instructional unit. For instance, field trip activities may expand students' horizons, lend substance to abstract ideas, bring instruction to life, excite and inspire students to greater efforts, and above all, expand understanding, knowledge, and skills. Appropriate field trips, carefully prepared and well planned, are excellent culminating activities to bring classroom instruction into perspective.

The school system offers systemically identified field trips, which may be required for some grade levels. In addition, schools may choose to offer elective field trip opportunities when such activities serve to further enrich the essential curriculum.

The richness and diversity of available historical sites, cultural museums, and community facilities within reasonable distance of Frederick County schools is unrivaled. The board believes that this richness and diversity should be available to all Frederick County students as part of a planned, sequential program clearly related to the objectives of the Frederick County essential curriculum.

- B. School-sponsored overnight travel-study trips are permitted only under certain circumstances and every effort should be made to schedule the trip on days when school is not in session. When permitted, the conditions specified in subsection C apply.
- C. Required field trips shall be offered at no cost to the student.
- D. Elective field trips, as well as approved overnight travel-study programs planned cooperatively by faculty and students in the public schools of Frederick County, shall be viewed as school-sponsored activities and are subject to the following conditions:
 - 1. Financial inability to attend may not be used as a reason for excluding a student from a field trip. If school funds are not available to support students with financial problems, the trip shall not occur.

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2. Student participation in these activities shall be voluntary and students who do not participate in these activities shall not be adversely affected in terms of their course requirements, grades, or eligibility to participate in other activities of the class or group.
- E. All travel-study programs, class, or student organization trips which do not meet the conditions specified in subsection C shall be viewed as non-school sponsored activities and are subject to the following restrictions:
1. Travel agencies or other organizations shall not be permitted to come into the schools for the purpose of advertising, promoting, or enrolling students for non-school sponsored travel-study programs or trips.
 2. Employees shall not, during the regular working day, participate in, advertise, promote, or enroll students for non-school sponsored travel-study programs or trips.
 3. Employees or others who organize or plan non-school sponsored travel-study programs or trips on school property must complete and have approved a "use of facilities" request form.