



Section Five: Instructional Programs

"Together We Learn"

525 – FIELD STUDIES – CURRICULAR AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Introduction

The Board of Education believes that field studies can have educational value if they:

- are relevant to the prescribed BC curriculum; or
- directly address career exploration or the intellectual, physical, social and emotional development of students.

The Board may cancel or modify a field study approved in accordance with this policy and regulations when unforeseen events occur.

Policy

1. The Board believes field studies should supplement the curricular or extra-curricular programs and as they may utilize time from the instructional day, the public must be assured that the field studies:
 - are directly related to the tasks the school is expected to perform (given the limited instructional time in the school year);
 - have educational benefits that outweigh any time loss from school;
 - have been planned to achieve specific educational goals.
2. Most field studies can be accomplished without extended travel and overnight stays. The objectives of the curriculum should be addressed, where appropriate, without extended travel/overnight stays.
3. Education is a partnership involving the school and the home. In order to ensure that there is strong parental support for field studies being planned, the Board directs that:
 - 3.1 Informed consent forms for each student must be completed for every field study to ensure that parents are aware of the activity (including thorough descriptions of the study, transportation, any inherent risks, any unusual or potential hazards and the possible consequences) and are supportive of the student's participation.



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- 3.2 For a field study that has volunteer and staff drivers using private vehicles, each driver must complete Form 525.3 – Transportation of Central Okanagan Public Schools Students Vehicle Use and Authorized Driver's Statements, prior to transporting students on the field study.
- 3.3 Students that transport themselves in a private vehicle must complete Form 525.4 – Student Using Vehicle for Field Studies – Curricular and Extra-Curricular, and comply with the requirements as outlined on the Form. The BC Schools Protection Program (SPP) does not recommend the use of student volunteer drivers due to their limited driving experience. Therefore, a student is not permitted to drive other students to and from school field studies and extra-curricular activities during school hours.
- 3.4 There shall be five levels of field studies, depending upon the activities to be undertaken. For definitions of levels and requirements for each level, refer to Regulations 525R - Field Studies – Curricular and Extra-Curricular. For a listing of field studies activities subject to restrictions and those which are prohibited, refer to Appendix 525A - Field Studies Activities.
- 3.5 For field studies levels four and five, parents must be consulted well in advance of any study planning taking place with the students. Studies must be planned well in advance to ensure educational purposes, parental support and safety issues are addressed.
- 3.6 Schools must be extremely sensitive to the financial burden and the potential conflict between parents and students by possible expensive field studies; the ability of students to pay their share of the costs must not be a factor in determining participation. School personnel must ensure that financial requirements do not exclude students from participation on a field study. For further information, see Regulation 425R - Student Fees, Section 8 - Financial Hardship.
- 3.7 For all studies, an appropriate medical response plan must be in place.
4. The Board recognizes that these educational experiences require many additional hours of staff time, and affirms staff for organizing these studies while ensuring they are relevant to the curriculum and enhance learning opportunities for students.



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5. The school district will endeavour to provide an annual budget for extra-curricular activities.
6. The school district and school codes of conduct will apply to all field studies.

Date Agreed: April 23, 1980

Date Amended: February 13, 1985; October 26, 1994;
September 16, 1998;

Date Amended/Reviewed: November 13, 2002

Date Amended: June 9, 2004; October 27, 2004; January 26, 2011

June 24, 2015; February 27, 2019; November 13, 2024

Related Documents: 525R, 525A, Field Study Forms