



302.8AP Field Trips & Excursions

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CROSS REFERENCE:

- [302.8AP Exhibit 1 International Field Trip Waiver – Student](#)
 - [302.8AP Exhibit 2 International Field Trip Waiver – BTPS Org Staff/Supervisor](#)
 - [302.8AP Exhibit 3 List of International Field Trip Participants](#)
 - [302.8AP Exhibit 4 Field Trip Checklist](#)
 - [303BP Use of Division-Owned Technology](#)
 - [304BP Personal Electronic Devices](#)
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GUIDELINES:

1. Curricular field trips are those developed directly from the school's program of studies, are based on written educational objectives, and are generally of a whole class nature.
2. Extra-curricular field trips are those relating directly to the students' participation or study by a voluntary commitment or selection (i.e. school teams, band, clubs, etc.).
3. Schools may raise the necessary funds through those means approved by the principal (e.g. school budget, student fees, fund-raising).
4. Every effort shall be made to ensure that no student is prevented from taking part in a curricular field trip because of inability to pay a fee.
5. Administrative approvals and parental consents must be received prior to embarking on a field trip.
6. Approved field trips are a Board sanctioned activity and as such require adequate teacher/adult supervision of students.

7. All participants are required to adhere to the fieldtrip expectations as set out by the teacher in charge.
8. Contracts with bus operators to transport students for, curricular, and extra-curricular trips will be negotiated by the school with the individual bus contractor with invoices to be approved and paid for by the school.

PROCEDURES:

Field Trip Approvals

1. Local and National Field Trips;

- 1.1 Local and national field trip proposals are to be submitted to the principal for approval. All applications must include:
 - 1.1.1 the number of participants;
 - 1.1.2 the teacher in charge and other BTPS staff involved;
 - 1.1.3 the person(s) identified as the first aider;
 - 1.1.4 educational objectives that connect to grade level curriculum;
 - 1.1.5 preparation of students for the study or activity that is appropriate for age, fitness and skills of the students;
 - 1.1.6 evaluation methodology to assess student learning;
 - 1.1.7 destination, means of transportation, accommodation, supervision arrangements, and a detailed itinerary;
 - 1.1.8 indication of parental support;
 - 1.1.9 supervisors on overnight trips are required to submit a current clear criminal records check;
 - 1.1.10 field trips that take place within the community are considered to be an extension of the classroom. These trips require that parents be notified, and that the objectives and evaluation be incorporated into lesson plans;
 - 1.1.11 for national travel all participants **must** carry appropriate insurance including coverage for any unforeseen expenses;
 - 1.1.12 the Board will not be responsible for any expenses incurred as a result of student participation in national field trips;

2. International Field Trip

- 2.1 Requests must be approved by the Board of Trustees.
- 2.2 The Board will not approve a field trip to any destination that is deemed by the Government of Canada Travel Advisory (<http://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>) identified at a security risk higher than “Exercise normal security precautions”, indicates a “travel health notice” or any other special advisories.
- 2.3 Should the Board provide approval for a field trip to a destination and prior to departure the Government of Canada Travel Advisory (<http://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>) status changes to any condition referred to in #2.2, the Board will immediately withdraw their support for the field trip. Any costs incurred as a result of the withdrawal of support will be the responsibility of participants.
- 2.4. The Board will not be responsible for any expenses incurred as a result of student participation in international field trips.
- 2.5 Participants on international field trips are limited to organizing staff, BTPS students in identified grade levels and supervisors. All adult travelers are considered supervisors.
- 2.6 Applications are to be submitted to the Board Secretary for the Board Meeting one year prior to the departure date. Early applications will be held until the appropriate Board meeting. All applications must include:
 - 2.6.1 the number of BTPS schools participating (schools are strongly encouraged to coordinate opportunities of this sort to maximize efficiencies, provide opportunity for students in schools where participation in these types of activities is below the minimum participation level and allow for cross-jurisdictional cooperation in providing these types of experiences);
 - 2.6.2 the number of participants (trips involving less than 12 students 180 days prior to departure will be subject to review and Board support may be withdrawn. The teacher in charge must notify the Board of Trustees if numbers fall below these minimum numbers);
 - 2.6.3 the grade level(s) identified as participants;
 - 2.6.4 the teacher in charge and other BTPS staff involved in a formal supervisory capacity;
 - 2.6.5 the person(s) identified as the first aider;
 - 2.6.6 a budget that demonstrates zero costs to be incurred by BTPS, excluding the cost of substitutes for staff in a formal supervisory capacity, for the field trip;

- 2.6.7 the number of instructional days (it is preferred that no instructional days be used for international field trips. In exceptional circumstances up to a maximum of two days may be allowed when a written plan for addressing the lost teaching time incurred as a result of any teaching days missed as a result of the timing of trip);
- 2.6.8 educational objectives that connect to grade level curriculum;
- 2.6.9 preparation of students for the study or activity that is appropriate for age, fitness and skills of the students;
- 2.6.10 evaluation methodology to assess student learning;
- 2.6.11 destination, means of transportation, accommodation, supervision arrangements, and a detailed itinerary;
- 2.6.12 indication of parental support;
- 2.6.13 a signed letter of principal support for the international field trip;
- 2.6.14 all students, staff and supervisors must provide proof of appropriate immunization, as per recommendations from Alberta Health and Wellness and Alberta Education. Individuals who do not have the required immunization (depending on destination) will not be permitted to travel;
- 2.6.15 all supervisors must have a current, clear criminal records check in place. All BTPS staff are subject to the criminal records check expectations outlined in their employment agreement;
- 2.6.16 all participants **must** carry appropriate insurance including coverage for any unforeseen expenses;
- 2.6.17 the communication plan between the teacher-in-charge and the school in case of emergency or travel delays.

3. **All Field Trips**

In addition to the proposal, it is expected that the school will address the following with respect to all field trips. Schools will ensure that:

- 3.1 All parents are advised of all the relevant particulars and associated risks relative to the field trip well in advance of the final decision to go and this is to be revealed in the-disclosure letter. Parent consent in writing is required for their child(ren) to participate in any field trip.
- 3.2 All participants are advised in writing, by the teacher in charge, of all incentives, rewards, and inducements provided to those responsible for organizing or supervising the field trip (i.e. free accommodation, free transportation, gifts, etc.) and the reason and manner to be followed to allocate such incentives to those supervising or organizing the trip. A copy of this

correspondence is to be included with the submission of the final documentation for national and international trips.

- 3.3 On each field trip there will be a teacher-in-charge and this person has overall authority on the trip. A communication plan between the teacher-in-charge and the school will be established prior to departure in case of emergency or travel delays.
- 3.4 Any participant requiring medication shall be identified and provision made to ensure the teacher in charge is aware of the medical condition and the procedure to be followed to deal with the medical condition.
- 3.5 All field trips require an adult (staff or parent volunteer) with valid first aid training. This individual must be made aware of any medical conditions that may require their support, as disclosed in 203.1AP Exhibit 1 and be responsible for dispensing any medications as per BTPS procedures 203.1AP Administration of Medication/Medical Assistance to Students.
- 3.6 On co-educational field trips involving an overnight stay shall have both male and female BTPS organizing staff/ supervisors as approved by the principal.
- 3.7 Field trips shall have adequate supervision giving due consideration to the age of the students, the nature of the field study and the places being visited. Schools are encouraged to use parents to assist in supervision; however, at least one staff member must accompany each group involved in the trip.
- 3.8 Parent supervisors are part of the overall supervision provided and they are to take direction from the teacher- in-charge. Parent supervisors are present to ensure the safety of the students on the trip.
- 3.9 Field trips impacting upon another teacher's class time require the consent of the teacher. Consent shall not be unreasonably denied.
- 3.10 Students shall not be penalized for participation or non-participation in any authorized field trip.
- 3.11 BTPS organizing staff/supervisors are responsible to ensure the welfare and safety of the students from the initiation to the completion of the field trip.
- 3.12 Students are responsible to the BTPS organizing staff/supervisor(s) for their conduct and behavior from the initiation to the completion of the field trip.
- 3.13 The means of transportation (i.e. bus, private vehicles etc.) must be provided on the parent consent form. If the means of transportation (prior to the field trip or during the field trip) changes for any reason, all parents will be notified as per the communication plan in 3.4 prior to making the change.

3.14 In the case of an emergency where student safety is a concern the teacher in charge will make the decision in the best interest of the students. The school and the parents will be notified as soon as it is safe to do so. This information must be provided on the parent consent form.