

FIT Academy

214 OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL BY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to control out-of-state travel by the Board of Directors (BOD) members as required by law.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

BOD members have an obligation to become informed on the proper duties and functions of a BOD member, to become familiar with issues that may affect the FIT Academy (FIT), to acquire a basic understanding of school 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 BOD members. Occasionally, it may be appropriate for BOD members to travel out of state to fulfill their obligations.

III. APPROPRIATE TRAVEL

Travel outside the state is appropriate when the BOD finds it proper for BOD members to acquire knowledge and information necessary to allow them to carry out their responsibilities as BOD 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 FIT should be preapproved by the BOD.

IV. REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES

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

V. REIMBURSEMENT

- A. Requests for reimbursement must be itemized on the official FIT form and are to be submitted to the designated business manager. Receipts for lodging, commercial 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 BOD. Commercial transportation shall reflect economy fares and shall be reimbursed only for the actual cost of the trip.

- C. Amounts to be reimbursed shall be within the BOD's approved budget allocations, including attendance at workshops and conventions.

VI. ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

The Director shall develop a schedule of reimbursement rates for school business expenses, including those expenses requiring advance approval and specific rates of reimbursement. The Director shall also develop directives and guidelines to address methods and times for submission of requests for reimbursement.

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. 1035 (Aug. 23, 1999) (Retreat Expenses)
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 161b-12 (Aug. 4, 1997) (Transportation Expenses)

Cross References: FIT Policy 212 (School Board Member Development)
FIT Policy 412 (Expense Reimbursement)