

EMPLOYEE TRAVEL COMPENSATION

Employees traveling on behalf of the school district and performing approved school district business will be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses. Actual and necessary travel expenses will include, but not be limited to, transportation and/or mileage costs, lodging expenses, meal expenses and registration costs.

Travel Outside the School District

Travel outside of the school district must be pre-approved. Pre-approved will include an evaluation of the necessity of the travel, the reason for the travel and an estimate of the cost of the travel to qualify as approved school district business. Travel outside the school district by employees, other than the superintendent, is pre-approved by the superintendent or an immediate supervisor. Travel outside the district by the superintendent will be approved by the board president.

Reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses may be allowed for travel outside the school district if the employee received pre-approval for the travel. Prior to reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses, the employee must provide the school district with a detailed itemized receipt, indicating the date, purpose and nature of the expense for each claim item. In exceptional circumstances, the superintendent may allow a claim without proper receipt. Written documentation explaining the exceptional circumstances is maintained as part of the school district's record of the claim.

Failure to have a detailed itemized receipt will make the expense a personal expense. Personal expenses, including mileage, in excess of that required for the trip are reimbursed by the employee to the school district no later than 10 working days following the date of the expense.

Reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses for travel outside the school district will be limited to the pre-approved expenses. Pre-approved expenses are limited to the actual cost of the registration.

Pre-approved expenses for transportation within three-hundred miles of the school district administrative office will be by automobile. If a school district vehicle is not available, the employee will be reimbursed at the Internal Revenue Service standard mileage rate. Travel to/from home or work is never a reimbursable travel expense. *[Pre-approved expenses for transportation outside of three-hundred miles of the school district administrative office may be a public carrier. Reimbursement for air travel will be at the tourist class fares. Should an employee choose to travel by automobile, reimbursement will be limited to the cost of a Class "C" rental car at a medium-priced agency unless the number of people traveling on behalf of the school district warrants a larger vehicle.]* Travel costs for a spouse or anyone other than the district employee shall be a personal expense not reimbursed by the district.

Pre-approved expenses for lodging within the state is limited to \$ 125.00 per night. Pre-approved expense for lodging outside the state is limited to the rate of a medium priced hotel in the area. Lodging may be pre-approved for a larger amount if special circumstances require the employee to stay at a particular hotel. Pre-approved expenses for meals in or out of the state are limited to \$10.00 for breakfast, \$15.00 for lunch, and \$20.00 for dinner.

Travel Within the School District

Employees required to travel in their personal vehicle between school district buildings to carry out the duties of their position may be reimbursed at the Internal Revenue Service standard mileage rate. It is the responsibility of the superintendent to approve travel within the school district by employees. It is the responsibility of the board to review the travel within the school district by the superintendent through the board's audit and approval process.

Travel allowances within the district will be provided only after board approval. Employees who are allowed a within district travel allowance will have the amount of the allowance actually received during a calendar year included on the employee's W-2 form as taxable income according to the Internal Revenue Code.

Use of District-Owned Vehicles

Certain district employment positions may require extensive travel. Due to the required duties of these positions, the district may provide certain positions with use of district-owned vehicles. Employees who utilize district-owned vehicles during the course of their job duties are fulfilling the public purpose of meeting the needs of your educational community in an efficient, and time-sensitive manner. District-owned vehicles are purchased and maintained with public money and must be used strictly in accordance with fulfilling a public purpose. These vehicles represent the district in carrying out its educational mission. Therefore, district-owned vehicles will be clearly marked at all times to identify the district.

The superintendent is responsible for developing administrative regulations regarding actual and necessary expenses, in-school district travel allowances and assignment and proper use of school district vehicles. The administrative regulations will include the appropriate forms to be filed for reimbursement to the employee from the school district and the procedures for obtaining approval for travel outside and within the school district.

Note: This policy contains auditor's requirements for the travel compensation policy, including incidental vehicle use, reimbursement by employees for personal use, travel between attendance centers and taxation of additional compensation. As a result, most of the language of the policy is mandatory. The paragraphs in brackets that address specific limitations for expenditures are optional.

Legal Reference: Iowa Constitution, Art III § 31.
Iowa Code §§ 70A.9-.11.

Cross Reference: 216.3 Board of Directors' Member Compensation and Expenses
401.10 Credit Cards
904.1 Transporting Students in Private Vehicles

Approved: August 20, 1992 Reviewed: April 21, 2008 Revised: March 21, 2022