



5850 SOCIAL EVENTS AND CLASS TRIPS

The Board of Education recognizes the value of social events and class trips that will enhance and enrich the school experience for the **students** of this district.

For purposes of this policy, a "social event" is a party, celebration, or dance organized for the participation of **students**, and "class trips" are trips taken by pupils in a single graduating class, **students** who share a particular interest in an activity, or **students** who are enrolled in a particular subject area. Social events and class trips are not related or are only indirectly related to the curriculum.

The Board will make school facilities available and assign staff members as appropriate for the conduct of social events on school premises that have been approved by the Superintendent and for social events and class trips away from school premises that have been approved by the Superintendent for all trips within the State and approved by the Board for all trips out of state. A social event or class trip may be considered to have been approved by this Board only when the Board has duly assigned one or more district chaperones to supervise participating **students***. The Board will assume no responsibility for a **student** social event or trip that has not been approved in accordance with this policy.

The Board will not approve a social event or class trip that has the effect of reducing the school year for participating **students** to fewer than one hundred eighty days.

The Board may authorize field trips for which all or part of the costs are borne by the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), except that no student in a special education class or student unable to pay the cost assessed shall be prohibited from attending a field trip. (N.J.S.A. 18A:36-21) The determination of a student's inability to pay will be based upon the student's eligibility for free and reduced meals (Policy 8540) or unforeseen hardship. A committee including the principal or designee will determine hardship and need. Students will receive a lunch from the school cafeteria but shall be responsible for other purchases made on the trip.

The Board reserves the right to cancel any scheduled trip.

Social events or class trips are not part of the thorough and efficient system of education provided the Board. Participation in them is therefore not a right and may be denied to any **student** without the due process of notice and an opportunity to be heard. A **student** who

demonstrates disregard for school rules may summarily be denied participation in social events and class trips.

Students who participate in approved social events and class trips are subject to district rules for **student** conduct and must submit to the authority of assigned chaperones. Infractions of the rules will be subject to discipline in the same manner as are infractions of rules during the regular school program.

A **student** who possesses or consumes alcohol or drugs in the course of an approved social event or class trip will be deemed to have placed all other participating **students** at risk and shall be immediately dismissed from the event or trip. Any such **student** will be returned home by appropriate and safe means of transportation in the company of a chaperone, the **student's** parent(s) or legal guardian(s), or a representative of the **student's** parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Any expenses incurred by the dismissal will be the responsibility of the **student** and/or the **student's** parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

The Superintendent will develop regulations governing the conduct and safety of all participants in social events and class trips and will distribute them to **student** and adult participants.

* Chaperones may not be relatives, spouses, or partners of teacher chaperones.

Adopted: 28 September 2004

Revised: 31 May 2011