



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
REPORT 23-022**

07 March 2023

APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO POLICY P.029.SCO FIELD TRIPS

Key Contact: Brett Reynolds, Associate Director, Ext: 8252

PURPOSE:

1. To seek approval of the proposed revisions to Policy P.029.SCO Field Trips.

STRATEGIC LINKS:

2. The revised draft policy upholds the district's commitment to providing collaborative, modernized, and high learning opportunities for all students in all programs through the organization of field trips while simultaneously ensuring the removal of barriers impacting equity of access, opportunity, and outcomes for students. This supports the Cultures of Innovation and Social Responsibility pillars of the 2019-2023 OCDSB Strategic Plan.

CONTEXT:

3. This report highlights the main themes that emerged from consultations on draft Policy P.029.SCO Field Trips, which was presented to the Committee of the Whole for discussion on 07 February 2023, and shared with the public between 06 February 2023 until 24 February 2023 through the District website and social media accounts. The suggested revisions to the Policy are highlighted in Appendix A.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

4. The Continuation of Field Trips Associated with a Higher Cost
The intention of the wording previously used in the draft policy was to ensure that field trips should be offered at a reasonable price, and where possible, at no cost to students who are in financial need. There is absolutely no intention from the District to cancel field trips that involve a high degree of learning and a higher cost to students, which would include international student exchanges. The District believes that such field trips contribute to the enrichment of the school experience to many students and support their continuation. The revised procedure adds clear parameters for ensuring that such field trips should not present a barrier to students.

5. The Exclusion of Competitive Athletics

Feedback has been received regarding the exclusion of competitive athletics from this policy with the belief that the draft policy would permit competitive athletics regardless of the criteria included in this policy while other, more expensive field trips, would be banned. While it is the intention of the District to continue competitive athletics much like other field trips with a high cost and high degree of learning component, the difference between the first and the latter is in the implementation, including the forms and information required from parents/guardians. For that reason, staff choose to make this distinction clear in the procedures currently in progress. Resultantly, competitive athletics will be encompassed in their own procedure due to differing provisions around such events.

6. Key Changes

The revised draft incorporates the following revisions, as suggested by the community:

- An emphasis on student and staff safety during field trips.
- The removal of directive 3.3b which stated that all field trips shall be “offered at a minimal to no cost to students” given that 3.3c emphasizes the Board’s duty to accommodate and also eliminate barriers for students in order to ensure equity of access, opportunities, and outcomes.
- An addition of OCDSB Policy [P.108.SCO: Care for Students with Severe, or Life-threatening Medical Conditions](#) to the Reference Documents. Further details will be included in the revised procedure around the care for students with severe or life-threatening conditions during field trips.
- The removal of “this does not include competitive athletics” from the definition of Field Trips and the addition of reciprocal student exchanges to to signal the fact that such field trips will continue to be offered.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

7. There are no financial or resource implications relating to the proposed revisions to the Field Trips Policy.

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:

8. As previously classified as a Tier 2 Policy Review, public consultations on the draft policy took place between 06 February 2023 until 24 February 2023 through the District website and social media accounts. We received numerous emails from the OCDSB community with feedback and comments that were thematically coded and addressed within the revised policy, where appropriate. The dominating theme that emerged through the analysis of the feedback was a perception that field trips will no longer be offered to students due to the increasing expenses associated with the booking of field trips, this includes the

ending of international field trips and student exchanges. The proposed revisions aim at clarifying this misunderstanding.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the revisions to P.029.SCO Field Trips, attached as Appendix A to Report 23-022, be approved.

Brett Reynolds
Associate Director
(ext. 8252)

Michele Giroux
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Revised Policy P.029.SCO Field Trips