

214 OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL BY CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to control out-of-state travel by charter school board members as required by law.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Charter school board members have an obligation to become informed on the proper duties and functions of a charter school board member, to become familiar with issues that may affect the charter school, 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 charter school policies that relate to their functions as charter school board members. Occasionally, it may be appropriate for charter school board members to travel out of state to fulfill their obligations.

III. APPROPRIATE TRAVEL

Travel outside the state is appropriate when the charter school board finds it proper for charter school board members to acquire knowledge and information necessary to allow them to carry out their responsibilities as charter school board members. Travel to regional or national meetings of the National Charter 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 the charter school should be preapproved by the charter school board.

IV. REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES

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

V. REIMBURSEMENT

- A. Requests for reimbursement must be itemized on the official charter school form and are to be submitted to the designated administrator. 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 the charter school board. 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 charter school board's approved budget allocations, including attendance at workshops and conventions.

VI. ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

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

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 124E.07 (Board of Directors)
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 1035 (Aug. 23, 1999) (Retreat Expenses)
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 161b-12 (Aug. 4, 1997) (Transportation Expenses)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 212 (Charter School Board Member Development)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 412 (Expense Reimbursement)