



# PARENT/GUARDIAN APPROVAL FOR TRIPS MCPS TRANSPORTATION IS NOT PROVIDED

MCPS Form 560-31  
September 2016

Office of School Support and Improvement  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

### To Be Completed by the Trip Sponsor.

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level/Group \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of Trip \_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m. To \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m. Student Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Trip (include city and state) \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation Arrangements:  MCPS Approved Bus Carrier (Name: \_\_\_\_\_ )

Public Transportation (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_ )  Walking

Riding in a vehicle with:  Parent  Guardian  Staff  Student

Purpose of Trip \_\_\_\_\_

School Staff Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

The student named below may be excused to engage in the above-described activity.

Signature of Principal \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

### To Be Completed by Parent, Legal Guardian, or Eligible Student

#### Parent/Guardian Financial Responsibility

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) wants you to know about your financial responsibility for field trips.

**Cost**—Depending on the trip, the cost may include transportation, ticket or entrance fee, food, hotel, and/or a travel company's fee.

**Payment**—Payment may be made by check made out to the school, cash, or, if available, through an online payment system. However, it is recommended that you do not send cash to school with your student(s). A check returned by the bank for any reason is subject to a \$25.00 returned-check fee. Please contact the school counselor or school administrator to make alternative arrangements for payment. Scholarships, reduced fee, or modified payment schedules are available if the cost of the field trip would create a hardship for your family.

**Delay, Change, or Cancellation**—Sometimes it is necessary to postpone, change, or even cancel a trip for safety, bad weather, or other reasons. Sometimes, when a trip is cancelled, changed, or delayed, cancellation fees or other payments have been made in advance that MCPS cannot get back. For example, there may be transportation reservations, tickets that have been purchased, or fees paid to a travel agent. A refund is not always possible, but we will do our best to refund all or part of your payment.

**Additional Cost**—If a trip is delayed, interrupted, or changed once it has begun and students need to remain away from home and school longer than anticipated for safety or other reasons, there may be additional costs for such things as food, lodging, and additional or alternative transportation. If this happens, we will do our best to keep additional costs to a minimum, but you are responsible for paying these additional expenses for your child(ren).

#### Information Regarding Travel Insurance

Travel insurance may help cover costs if the trip is cancelled, delayed, or interrupted, or if you are not able to go on the trip for reasons such as an illness. The cost of travel insurance varies depending on the company and plan you choose. Be aware, however, that travel insurance companies will not cover a trip that is cancelled by the school as a precaution. Unless the school has made arrangements for group insurance that is included in the cost of the field trip, the decision on whether to purchase travel insurance is yours. If you wish to purchase travel insurance, you must make the arrangements and pay the cost.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my child to participate in the above-described activity.

I do NOT give permission for my child to participate in the above-described activity.

I would like to volunteer to chaperone this field trip.\*

*\*Please be advised that all volunteers must complete [online training](#) on the prevention, recognition, and reporting of child abuse and neglect. Volunteers for extended-day, out-of-area, and overnight field trips must also undergo fingerprinting and background checks.*

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

## **INFORMATION REGARDING TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Although there are many travel insurance providers, the scope and cost of the coverage they provide varies widely. The one consistency, however, is that the cancellation of a school trip by school officials is not a "covered event" under travel insurance policies when the cancellation is purely precautionary. Nonetheless, travel insurance may be helpful should a trip be cancelled, delayed or interrupted due to other causes.

If group travel insurance is unavailable, impractical or inappropriate for a particular trip (e.g. only a small number of students are traveling or the cost of the trip is not substantial), parents may still wish to purchase travel insurance on their own. In such a situation, we recommend that the following statement be included in the letter to parents:

Given your potential financial responsibilities in the event of trip cancellation, delay or interruption, you may wish to consider purchasing travel insurance, which may cover costs arising from such events. The cost of such insurance and the scope of coverage will vary among companies. Please be aware that eligibility to receive cancellation benefits from an insurance company depends upon the circumstances of the trip cancellation. For example, if the school officials canceled a trip, it is most likely that this would not be considered a "covered event" unless it could be proven that cancellation was justified by independent circumstances. But, if the trip was underway and you incurred expenses for additional lodging or transportation, those might be covered. Therefore, we urge you to be sure you understand the scope of your coverage before purchasing any insurance. We do not endorse or recommend any particular insurance company and ask that you handle this on your own. If you are not familiar with companies offering travel insurance, a quick Internet search for "travel insurance" will provide you with numerous names.