

STUDENTS

5134.1c

FOREIGN TRAVEL

The Diocese of Harrisburg recognizes the educational experience that foreign travel provides, and yet is concerned about the safety of both students and employees and the liability factor involved.

The Diocese will permit foreign travel for high school students (grades 9-12) provided that:

1. Travel is to Western Europe and Canada only, and that such travel both at the time of planning and of the trip itself, is not considered to be a high risk by the United States Government. (The Secretary for Education may suspend permission for foreign travel at any time.)
2. Travel is with a reputable student travel organization, and the sponsoring organization has a minimum of ten million dollars domestic and ten million dollars international insurance protection.
3. The sponsoring organization provides worker's compensation for any Professional Employee.
4. The trip has prior authorization by the Diocese of Harrisburg. (see attachment)

Any international travel in which the school is in any way associated with must meet all of the requirements for participation in field trips (Cf. 5134.1b). In addition,

1. The Principal must approve all chaperons. (see policy 4300)
2. All chaperons must be adults, and at least one chaperone must be a professional employee of the school.
3. All individuals traveling on the trip must be responsible for all of their immunizations and must comply with any international travel restrictions and requirements. Participants will also be responsible for covering the cost of any additional insurance waivers the diocese may require.
4. Students are never permitted to drink alcoholic beverages, even when the age for alcohol use is lower in the foreign country than in Pennsylvania.

The Diocese of Harrisburg does not sanction any foreign trip planned without compliance with the above conditions. Therefore, if an employee of a school or the diocese should choose to sponsor a trip without complying with the above conditions, the school or the diocese will

require a disclaimer from that employee stating that s/he is conducting a trip as an independent contractor. In such an event, no meetings or publicity may be conducted in the school.

Policy

Revised: September 1, 2000

NCD/Bishop of Harrisburg