

**SCHOOL TRIPS – WATERCRAFT AND DOWN-HILL SKI TRIPS****Category:** Health and Safety**Effective:** August 2013**Policy Statement**

Recognizing the valuable learning experiences which may be gained by students, Anglophone West School District supports planned trips of an educational nature which, because of the distance or the itinerary involved, require that students be away for one or more days (to a maximum of 3).

Procedures1. Watercraft

Trips involving watercraft are intended to extend the academic world of the classroom to the natural world, thus providing an opportunity for students to become familiar with their environment and, through practical experience, learn how to be custodians of the wilderness.

- a. A maximum of twenty students may be involved in any one group.
- b. In addition to the regular student/teacher ratios, at least one adult supervisor must be present who has current lifeguard qualifications (Royal Lifesaving Bronze Medallion or Award of Merit), and small watercraft certification. In the case of canoes, the trip leader must also have a minimum of Level 2 Canoe Certification (N.B. Canoeing Association) or equivalent certification rating.
- c. At least one of the adult supervisors on each trip must hold a current St. John Ambulance First Aid Certificate, or equivalent.
- d. At least one of the adult supervisors on each trip must be familiar with camp craft skills, including map and compass reading skills.
- e. At least one of the adult supervisors on each trip must have traveled the chosen route under similar water conditions before students take the trip.
- f. There must be adequate numbers of male and female adult supervisors on each trip to meet the needs of students.
- g. Department of Transportation regulation Personal Flotation Devices must be worn at all times in or on the water.
- h. All participating students must pass a pre-test in a pool, prior to going on the trip, based on the following minimum standards:
 - i. travel fifty (50) meters in water over his/her head, fully clothed, with a Personal Flotation Device, and lift his/her own body weight out of the water; and
 - ii. successful completion of a test in artificial respiration techniques.
- i. School canoe trips are to be conducted on rivers having Grade 1 or Grade 2 International River Classification standards. Only qualified students may traverse fast water and/or rapids of Grade 2 rivers.
- j. Lake canoeing and kayaking is restricted to within twenty (20) meters of the shoreline, unless by doing so the students are put at greater risk.



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- k. A written emergency plan, approved by the principal, is required for each trip. In addition to the emergency plan, the principal, the trip leader and the District Office must have the following information:
 - i. a list of student participants with their home telephone numbers,
 - ii. a parental consent form,
 - iii. a detailed itinerary, and
 - iv. relevant medical information including Medicare numbers.

2. Down-Hill Ski Trips

Down-Hill ski trips will be a possible Co-curricular activity for students in Grades 6 to 8 only. Co-curricular activities are those organized by teaching staff to help achieve one or more curriculum objectives which use, or extend into, instructional time.

- a. As with any Co-curricular activity, ski trips must have an education orientation, complete with a lesson plan.
- b. Ski trips will not be permitted during school hours for the sole purpose of recreational amusement.
- c. Each student will be permitted to participate in only one school day of skiing per school year for a maximum of three days over the course of his or her Grades 6 to 8 school experience.
- d. No student will be permitted to participate without a signed parental consent form.
- e. Schools must be informed as to the numbers of fully qualified ski instructors available, any limit on the number of students, safety precautions and the cost per pupil prior to authorization being given for trips.
- f. No student will be excluded from full participation in a skiing activity because of inability to pay associated costs.
- g. Adequate arrangements should be made to provide suitable clothing and equipment for participating students.

| School Trip | Gr K-2 | Gr 3 – 5 | Gr 6 to 8 | Gr 9 - 12 |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| Day Field Trip | 1:5 | 1:8 | 1:12 | 1:15 |
| Overnight Field Trip | Not relevant | 1:5 | 1:8 | 1:10 |
| High Risk/Out-of-Province Trips | Not relevant | Not relevant | 1:5 | 1:8 |
| Canoe Trips / Watercraft | See Policy | See Policy | 1:2 | 1:5 |

Reference

- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development [Policy 709: Student Physical Activity Safety Standards](#)