

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

TITLE: WAIVERS AND INFORMED CONSENT
CATEGORY: EDUCATION
NUMBER: 1360

I. Rationale:

The function of informed consent is to provide information to parents regarding curricular and extracurricular activities. It also provides an opportunity for parents to advise the school of any concerns they may have related to their child's participation in an activity.

Informed consent shall be used by School District No. 46 as a condition of participation by students in certain curricular and extracurricular activities. Specifically, informed consents are signed by a parent or guardian to indicate their consent to the proposed activity of an extracurricular, off-site curricular, or an on-site curricular activity that is considered by the school as medium to high risk.

II. Procedures:

A. Low-risk activities:

1. Schools may use a general consent form to cover off-site curricular activities of a low risk nature, such as field trips to cultural activities, local businesses and industrial sites, community visits, musical productions and courses that include frequent low risk activities.
2. A general consent form may be used on an annual or by course basis for this purpose as long as:
 - a) parents/guardians are given notice of each activity as it approaches;
 - b) the general consent provides a possible list of the low risk activities to which they are consenting;
 - c) both the general consent form and notice shall describe transportation arrangements.

B. High-risk activities:

1. Higher risk off-site curricular and extracurricular activities require more detailed and individualized consent forms. By signing the consent form, the parent/guardian agrees that the activities described, including normal associated risks, are appropriate for his/her child.
2. Such forms are specific to the activity and describe inherent risks.
3. Specifically, the consent form will include:
 - a) specific means of transportation;
 - b) the nature of the supervision being provided;
 - c) a description of the activity, including inherent risks;

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d) identify the date, time and duration of the activity.

4. When a curricular or extracurricular activity is planned that extends several days or is considered by the school principal to be a high-risk activity, the consent form shall also include:

a) address and telephone number to the location of the activity or, where necessary, the cell phone number of the supervising teacher for emergency contact;

b) a detailed itinerary, including any options that may be available for the students, unsupervised periods and remoteness from medical facilities;

c) a more detailed description of the risks that are inherent to the activity.

5. When a course is offered that involves higher than normal associated risks (e.g. a senior level physical education course, an outdoor physical education course) the activities and attendant risks shall be described to parents/guardians early enough so that an alternative course selection can be made.

C. Waivers

1. Waiver forms shall be used for extracurricular activities involving high risk activities. These will usually be activities that private operators would require waiver forms for, such as river rafting, rock climbing, skiing, etc.

2. Where outside facility providers require waiver forms as a condition of providing services, the school shall insure that parents/guardians receive notice of this fact before they consent to their child's participation in the activity.

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References: