

Field Trip Safety Tips

The risks associated with field trips vary. Some field trips could be relatively straightforward with little risk associated with them (taking a bus to a mission for a tour) versus trips that have a larger amount of risk associated with them (visiting a high-ropes course). Below are some considerations for the type of field trip you are planning and what may be required for such a trip. What documents you collect is based on the level of risk for the type of event/trip you are planning.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

What exact activities will the students be doing on the trip (i.e. touring, participating, observing, etc.)?

Look at RESIG's Activity Guide and see what is similar (or matches) the activities involved within the field trip. Follow the risk mitigation suggestions for the level of risk associated with the field trip.

How will students be transported to/from the trip?

The best way to transport students to and from a field trip is a school bus with our own vetted employees and insurance supports. If a charter, personal drivers, or rented vehicles are utilized, please follow SB88 guidelines for that type of transportation.

Is the trip during the school day or is it an overnight trip?

If the trip is during the school day, then it should be linked to an educational standard and is supported through your district. If it is an overnight trip, many Districts have these approved through their Board first and include necessary contract reviews to ensure the District is covered well for liability in the case of a claim. See our Outdoor Education Venue Spreadsheet for a breakdown on activities by risk offered by frequently used vendors.

Does this field trip require a waiver?

Every field trip should include a permission slip (even if it is a simple walk down the street to a local park) so parents are aware that students will be off campus in a public venue. A waiver may be required due to the uniqueness of some activities on a trip or if the activity, not tied to curriculum or educational standard, occurs outside of the educational day.