

Date of Hearing: May 10, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Patrick O'Donnell, Chair  
AB 341 (Frazier) – As Introduced February 7, 2017

**SUBJECT:** School field trips: expenses

**SUMMARY:** Deletes the prohibition on using school district funds for field trips or excursions to other states or countries. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Deletes the prohibition on the use of school district funds for the purposes of expenses of students participating in a field trip or excursion to other state, the District of Columbia, or a foreign country.
- 2) Deletes the authorization for expenses of instructors, chaperones, and other personnel participating in a field trip or excursion to other state, the District of Columbia, or a foreign country to be paid from school district funds, and the authorization for school districts to pay from school district funds all incidental expenses for the use of school district equipment during such a field trip or excursion.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Prohibits the assessment of student fees for participation in an educational activity in public K-12 schools.
- 2) Authorizes the governing board of a school district or the county superintendent of schools of a county to:
  - a) Conduct field trips or excursions in to and from places in the state, any other state, the District of Columbia, or a foreign country for students enrolled in elementary or secondary schools, and transport students and staff for this purpose, provided that the governing board secures liability insurance for this purpose.
  - b) Engage instructors, supervisors, and other personnel to contribute their services over and above the normal period for which they are employed by the district, if necessary, and provide equipment and supplies for the field trip or excursion.
  - c) Provide supervision of students involved in field trips or excursions by certificated employees of the district.
- 3) Prohibits a student from being prevented from taking a field trip or excursion because of lack of sufficient funds.
- 4) Requires governing boards to coordinate efforts of community service groups to supply funds for students in need.

- 5) Prohibits a group from being authorized to take a field trip or excursion if a student who is a member of an identifiable group will be excluded from participation in the field trip or excursion because of lack of sufficient funds.
- 6) Prohibits expenses of students participating in a field trip or excursion to other state, the District of Columbia, or a foreign country from being paid for with school district funds.
- 7) States that expenses of instructors, chaperones, and other personnel participating in a field trip or excursion authorized by this section may be paid from school district funds, and the school district may pay from school district funds all incidental expenses for the use of school district equipment during a field trip or excursion.
- 8) Prohibits the Superintendent of Public Instruction from providing transportation allowances for field trips or excursions that have an out-of-state destination.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** This bill has been keyed non-fiscal by the Office of Legislative Counsel.

**COMMENTS:**

***Need for the bill.*** According to the author's office, this bill was introduced in response to the experience of the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District. According to the school district, in the spring of 2016, the Armijo High School and Grange Middle School VEX Robotics teams qualified to attend the world robotics competition which was to be held in Kentucky. Without financial support from the District, the students and the teams would have been unable to compete. The district applied for and received a waiver, allowing them to use district funds to pay for the excursion. The school district has since had to submit subsequent waiver requests for out-of-state robotics competitions.

***Inequities in ability to fundraise.*** For out-of-state trips, districts cannot charge students and cannot use school district funds, so fundraising is the only means of financing these trips. For students from lower income families or communities this may present an insurmountable barrier to participation in out-of-state events.

***State Board of Education waivers.*** According to the author, since 2011 the State Board of Education has approved eight waivers of the prohibition on using school district funds to support out-of-state trips.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District (sponsor)  
California School Boards Association

**Opposition**

None on file

**Analysis Prepared by:** Tanya Lieberman / ED. / (916) 319-2087