



Student Trips Abroad Approval Protocol

The following articulates elements to consider when approving or partially approving Foundation funds to be expended in support of international travel by Eastern Lancaster County School District students:

I. Trip Location. Consideration should be given to trip destinations that are more exotic or represent a greater cultural difference than American culture. Destinations need to provide opportunities for global immersion. Influences of cultural difference, geographic interest, economic forces and political realities are examples for reasons to travel. Ultimately the country of origin or region must be assessed.

II. Plans for knowledge distribution. How the experiences of the trip will be distributed for the consumption of others who were not on the trip should be considered.

- Will the report be a onetime event or multiple events?
- Will the information gained result in the learning of others and how many?
- Is a more permanent relationship going to be established in any way for ongoing exchange?
- The younger the students are, the more support should be shown or given as they will be here on site for a longer period of time to share their experiences.

III. Activities that are scheduled to occur during the trip should be considered. For example, are the activities more “tourist-like” or “sightseeing” in nature or are they more an authentic immersion? Will there be authentic interaction with the people of the travel destination? The board may choose to fund a specific event during the trip rather than the entire trip.

IV. Trip Fundraising may be a consideration. In other words, a matching program. The actual cost of the trip should be considered as well as external funding and matching that could occur.

- Consideration should be given to making sponsorship match the individuals plan to share knowledge out or in the development of a more permanent connection to the culture of the District. This could be a competitive process.