Board Policy on Boat Safety Procedures – 2nd Reading

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Boating Safety Procedures

While on a field trip or school-sponsored trip all school-based rules and all rules set forth in the *Student Handbook* apply.

No student should be permitted to participate in a field trip or school-sponsored trip unless the following documents have been received:

- A Parent/Guardian Permission Slip;
- A Parent/Guardian Medical Information Form; and
- An Informed Consent and Release to Participate in Water Activities, if applicable.

All of these forms must be maintained for either seven (7) years after the due date on which the field trip is completed or seven (7) years after the student transfers, graduates, or withdraws from the school district, whichever is later. Forms must be stored with head supervisor.

A full description of the proposed activity must be filed with the principal prior to the field trip and must include:

i. Sponsoring staff member(s)
ii. Educational purpose/benefit of the activity
iii. The date and time of the trip
iv. Where the trip will be to/from
v. Number of students to attend field trip
vi. Any other special student needs

School field trips involving water activities are considered high risk and, therefore, the following are recommended procedures for field trips near water or involving swimming and boating:

1. Specially Trained Supervision
    a. For field trips involving swimming activities, the activity should be under the direct supervision of a certified lifeguard.
    b. For boating activities involving canoeing, kayaking, and power craft, the activity should be under the direct supervision of a captain with a minimum of two years of experience in driving the craft type being used. The captain should be familiar with existing water conditions and the route being traveled.
    c. A minimum of one supervisor must have current first aid certification.
    d. A minimum of one supervisor must have current CPR training.
    e. There must be a local expert accompanying the activity.
    f. There must be a minimum of one chaperone per five students.

2. Special Equipment
    a. For water-related activities, provide lifesaving equipment *such as* extension poles, ring buoys with line, blankets, and whistles (only bring necessary equipment).
    b. All passengers must wear a well-fitted flotation device that has been approved by the Coast Guard (must fit well and be worn with all buckles fastened at all times).
    c. Each boat should contain emergency and safety equipment *such as* a whistle or bell, anchor, navigational system, lights, and a visual distress system.
    d. The supervisor(s) must carry a contact device *such as* a satellite phone, VHF radio, or cell phone.
    e. A reserve boat must accompany all trips.

3. Weather Limitations
    a. Ocean
        i. Before leaving, the visibility must be up to two miles.
        ii. Seas must be less than three feet.
        iii. Winds must be less than 15 mph.
        iv. While on the trip, the craft should be a minimum of five miles within shore at all times.
        v. The official NOAA forecast must show the conditions being the same or diminishing for the entirety of the trip.
    b. River
        i. Before leaving, visibility must be over a half mile.
        ii. Winds must be less than 25 mph.

4. Insurance Coverage
    a. Be aware that when students are on a boat, **no** liability insurance coverage is provided for the school district on vessels 26 feet in length and over. The district would need proof of coverage on a vessel over this length as well as the captain to have a current six-pact license along with having all required safety equipment.

    b. The boat owner must carry liability insurance on their boat on any district sponsored trip that meets current district requirements, in addition to current boat registration, number and decals.