

# PPS TRAVEL POLICY REVISION FACT SHEET

February 6, 2019

## KEY CHANGES PROPOSED:

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The proposed changes to PPS Policy 6.50.010-P Field Trips, Foreign Travel, and Other Off-Campus Activities impose four key changes on our JMP exchange programs:

1. All out-of-state and foreign travel shall require prior Board approval.
2. Off-campus activities of more than five consecutive days when students are otherwise scheduled to be in class, will not be authorized.
3. District staff may not develop, plan, and/or supervise off-campus activities represented as "school, class, club, etc." other than what has been approved.
4. District staff or other persons may not use District email, social media, hardcopy distribution to students, or other methods of District-controlled distribution to communicate to students or families about non-school sponsored off-campus activities.

The full policy proposal can be found at: <https://www.pps.net/Page/11911>

## HOW WOULD THIS AFFECT OUR JMP CULTURAL EXCHANGES?

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### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Cultural Exchange and High School SSI:

Since these two trips occur outside of the school year during the summer, it does not require board approval and is not prohibited due to its length. However, preparation, planning, communication, and leadership for the trips would be severely curtailed:

- **No PPS communications channels could be used to communicate with parents or students about the trips**, so only students and families who join our separate Oya No Kai directory, attend meetings, or access the information on their own via the ONK website or social media would receive communications about them.
- Our classroom teachers and other PPS employees would be **prohibited from helping develop, plan, or help their students and parents prepare for the trips**, including after-school activities such as cultural series and performance practice sessions.
- PPS teachers, administrators, and staff would be **prohibited from leading the exchanges** as trip directors, assistant directors, or chaperones.

All three of these restrictions – communication, planning & preparation, and leadership - are currently essential components of our cultural exchange program. These prohibitions will make it far more difficult to plan and prepare for and communicate with students and families, and would likely **reduce access and participation**. It would also require external trip planners, which would **increase the cost** of the exchanges for all participants, and further **reduce equity and access**.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Japan Research Residency:**

Since the JRR occurs during the school year, it would be prohibited in its current form. To be allowed, it would have to either:

- a) **Be reduced to a trip of no more than 9 days** (including travel days), such as a Sunday-to-Sunday period so that no more than 5 consecutive days of school are missed, OR
- b) **Be moved to a time when it is adjacent to a school break**, such as spring break or another holiday, so that no more than 5 days of school are missed, OR
- c) **Move to the summer**, like our two other exchanges, which would then:
  - Require the complete redesign of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum, which is currently built around the preparation for and intercultural research capstone project upon which the JRR is based.
  - Place the same PPS staff and communications prohibitions on the JRR as the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and SSI programs, with corresponding reduction of access and participation, and increased cost.

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP**

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1. **GET IN THE LOOP** – If you are not already an ONK member and on our e-mail list, please join it at <https://tools.ptoffice.com/>. This is one of the few ways we can regularly communicate with you and your family about matters critical to our JMP community!
2. **STAY INFORMED** – You will find plenty of detailed information on the Oya No Kai website at [www.oyanokai.org](http://www.oyanokai.org)
3. **CONTACT KEY LEADERS** – write letters, send emails, and make calls to PPS board members and leadership before February 25 (see our Suggested Talking Points document – also available at [www.oyanokai.org](http://www.oyanokai.org)).

**Focus your comments on the positive opportunities travel opportunities create for all students by enhancing curriculum, student achievement, real-world learning, and international and intercultural understanding.** Note that this is not just about your student and our program, but rather that this policy will have a detrimental impact on all learning opportunities like this for every PPS student and family.

4. **SPREAD THE WORD** – Most parents in our JMP program and the many other schools and programs that will be affected by this policy have no idea this is going on. Help us spread the word to other families, friends, teachers, and communities in other PPS programs that may be impacted by any part of the policy and encourage them to weigh in.

***Thank you for stepping up as an advocate for our kids and our JMP program!***