



Resolution #25

Private Transportation Exemptions for Out-of-District Travel

Submitted by Polaris Operational Board
February 26, 2024

Be it resolved by Operational Group, ASD will grant extenuating circumstance exemptions, on a case-by-case basis, for pre-approved, out-of-district travel to allow for private transportation when district transportation is not feasible and creates inequity and an undue financial burden for students and families in smaller school programs, such as Polaris.

1. **Whereas**, Polaris is a small program within the Anchorage School District and does not have a transportation or bus budget. Polaris families commit to transporting students to and from school;
2. **Whereas**, the Polaris school community cultivates a culture in which families are willing and eager to support both students and district goals through volunteerism and the donation of their time, talent, and treasure;
3. **Whereas**, Polaris Intensives have been a unique and highly valued pillar of the program since its inception. Intensive students are usually traveling in small numbers, often making district transportation cost prohibitive. Restrictions on private transportation drastically alter, limit, and even eliminate intensive opportunities;
4. **Whereas**, in order for Polaris students to participate equitably in ASD opportunities and events with other larger and differently funded schools, consideration should be given to transportation options that are feasible and do not unfairly and disproportionately burden students, families, or the school;
5. **Whereas**, When Polaris could provide private transportation for our students, there were zero incidents regarding the safety and health of students;
6. **Whereas**, district transportation would remain the preferred method for out-of-district transportation, when feasible;
7. **Whereas**, exemptions would only be considered for pre-approved travel and on a case-by-case basis;

8. **Whereas**, all drivers will be vetted, approved, and have all required permission and insurance information submitted in advance and on file, as per ASD's regulations; and
9. **Whereas**, a comparative cost and availability analysis will be completed to demonstrate the extenuating circumstance and need for exemption consideration.

Therefore, be it resolved by Operational Group, ASD will grant extenuating circumstance exemptions, on a case-by-case basis, for pre-approved, out-of-district travel to allow for private transportation when district transportation is not feasible and creates inequity and an undue financial burden for students and families in smaller school programs, such as Polaris.

Action Statement: If approved by the Polaris General Assembly, this resolution will be brought before the Anchorage School District Student Advisory Board.