1.15 Travel

Regulation Statement

This administrative regulation addresses requirements related to travel and reimbursement for a board member, member-elect, officer, employee or student of the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) traveling for a district purpose.

Reason for Regulation

1.15.1

Authority

Pursuant to ARS §15-1406B, a community college district may establish procedures and amounts for travel for a district purpose by a board member, member-elect, officer or employee. Such procedures and amounts may authorize reimbursement for lodging, subsistence, and travel expenses. The statewide travel policy as issued by the Arizona Department of Administration, is adopted by the MCCCD Governing Board as the principal authority for travel by board members, members-elect, officers and employees. In addition, the MCCCD travel regulation has been designed to qualify as an accountable plan under regulations established by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Student Travel. In general, student travel is governed by this regulation. Circumstances where student guidelines differ from the general travel regulation are identified as being specific to students only.

Non-Employee Travel. Non-employee travel is subject to the overall financial guidelines for reimbursement. However, the actual payment for non-employee travel should be processed via MCCCD’s purchasing process.

Funds shall be properly budgeted and total travel amounts shall be specifically approved by the Governing Board at the time of annual budget adoption, or as legally changed during the fiscal year.

Each college is responsible for providing direction and information concerning travel to their personnel, subject to the limitation of the travel and expense allowance outlined within this regulation.

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Governing Board Meeting July 25, 1995, Motion No. 8424

1.15.2

Definitions

1. Annual Travel Acknowledgment
All authorized travelers are required to complete the Online Annual Travel Acknowledgement [Employee Learn Center – Employee credentials are needed to enter secure site].

1. **Approved Travel Status**
   A. For a College/District traveler to be in approved travel status, the person must be conducting official College/District business with authorization as stated in section 1.15.3 Approval Authority.
   B. If expenses are to be incurred and/or paid, a travel authorization document must be completed and approved prior to travel. A conference brochure (or equivalent detailed document) should accompany conference-related travel requests. When travel expenses are not incurred or are paid for by another agency or individual, colleges may still require that a travel authorization document be completed. For in county travel required for routine District business purposes, a travel authorization is not required.
   C. The traveler assumes the financial risk and obligation for any travel purchase made prior to obtaining a fully approved travel authorization.

2. **Commute Miles**
   The distance between an individual’s residence and his or her duty post.

3. **Conference**
   Any event, including meetings, classes, educational workshops, etc., where the traveler is acting in an authorized/approved capacity for MCCCD.

4. **Conference Designated Lodging**
   The hotel where the conference is being held or the hotel(s) specified in the conference brochure (or equivalent detailed documents). (See 1.15.78 Lodging for additional information).

5. **Duty Post**
   A. **Employee**
      The place an officer or employee spends the largest portion of his or her regular working time or the place to which they return upon completion of a special assignment. An employee who has more than one place of work on a regular basis is deemed to have multiple duty posts. A duty post may also be a geographical area, such as different campuses or teaching locations or where the same routes are traveled frequently on one-day trips. Note: Commute mileage is to be based on no more than one round trip to/from duty post per day.
   B. **Others**
      The duty post for members of boards, commissions, authorities, councils, and committees who are not full-time employees of the College/District served by the board, commission, authority, council, or committee shall be deemed to be their place of residence.

6. **Governing Authority**
   The individual or individuals authorized to approve travel. (See 1.15.3 Approval Authority)

7. **Ground Transportation**
   Tolls, taxi, shuttle bus, limousine, subway, light rail, streetcar, trains, ride share (Uber, Lyft), etc., use to and from airports, hotels, conference sites, train stations, or bus terminals as needed in order to conduct business is classified as ground transportation.

8. **Group Travel**
   Students traveling together for a common event or purpose with at least one MCCCD employee. Only one travel authorization document is required for the students. A list of employees and students participating in the trip must accompany the travel authorization document for group travel. A group of MCCCD employees in approved travel status at the same location or event is not considered group travel.

9. **Incidental Expenses**
   Expenses including, but not limited to, gratuities, laundry, baggage handling tips, and other tips. Incidental expenses are covered by per diem and are not eligible for separate reimbursement.
9. **In-County Trips**
   Travel within Maricopa County and/or between MCCCD locations on official business.

10. **In-State Travel**
    Travel on official business outside Maricopa County but within the state of Arizona.

11. **International Travel**
    Travel outside of the parameters of the United States or its possessions or territories.

12. **Meals and Incidental Expenses (M&IE)**
    The cost to supplement sustenance as well as any incidental expenses while in approved travel status.

13. **Non-Employees**
    Any person who is not a Board Member or an Board approved employee of the District who is traveling for the benefit of or at the request of MCCCD. This includes, but is not limited to, District Governing Board Members, consultants, special speakers, accreditation committee members, and grant recipients.

14. **Official Function**
    An activity or item that appears to be outside of the ordinary and necessary function of MCCCD as a public educational institution, but that provides a tangible benefit and links directly to MCCCD’s educational mission and is reasonable and commensurate in value to the tangible benefit that MCCCD will receive. Expenses incurred by a traveler for activities or events that are an official function must comply with the Official Functions Administrative Regulation (1.16).

15. **Out-of-State Travel**
    Travel outside of Arizona, but still within the parameters of the United States, including U.S. possessions or territories.

16. **Per Diem Rate**
    The daily maximum amount (or partial day, if applicable, see 1.15.7) used to reimburse meals and incidental expenses as established by the state of Arizona and accessible at the following web site found here: [link to] https://maricopa.sharepoint.com/sites/DO/business/FSC/fsc-departments/accounts-payable/Pages/default.aspx business.maricopa.edu/financial-services-controller/fsc departments/accounts/payable/accounts-payable-travel-reference. Note: the amount allowed for meals is not intended to cover the entire cost of a meal taken while in travel status. The amount is calculated to compensate the traveler for the estimated difference between the cost of a meal taken on the road and cost of a meal prepared at home.

17. **Penny Travel**
    A travel authorization that is completed with no expected costs to the employee or the institution. Examples include third party paid travel. These authorizations do not require the traveler to create an expense report and will be closed by the fiscal office.

18. **Personal Travel**
    A traveler may be authorized to combine business and personal travel. Only expenses incurred on the days the traveler is on Maricopa business will be reimbursed. If personal travel occurs during time normally scheduled for work, the traveler must charge the time to annual leave.

19. **Professional Development Funds**
    Money made available by the District to support development activities of its employees. Criteria under which professional development funds are awarded may differ by employee group and are outside the scope of this Regulation. However, all awards as part of professional development fund initiatives are subject to the regulations and procedures outlined in this policy.

20. **Residence**
    The actual dwelling place of the individual without regard to any other legal or mailing address. Individual(s) required to reside away from their primary residence due to official travel away from their duty post may continue to claim such domicile as their residence if said residence is either inhabited by their dependents, or is held vacant...
at tangible expense. No reimbursement for lodging or other expenses shall be allowed on the premises of an individual's residence.

21. Student Group Travel
Students traveling together for a common event or purpose with at least one MCCCD employee. One travel authorization document bearing the total expenses and supporting documentation for the entire group (students and employees) referenced is required. All subsequent travel authorizations for additional employees must reference the primary travel authorization. All employees traveling must have their own travel authorization. A group of MCCCD employees in approved travel status at the same location or event is not considered group travel.

22. Traveler
Every District Governing Board member and a Any employee or non-employee of the District who is in approved travel status.

23. Valid Receipt
Any proof of payment from an authoritative source (including scanned or Online receipts) that includes sufficient detail to identify the services and/or items purchased. For airfare, car rentals, hotels, and registration fees, the receipt should be in the traveler’s name. Exceptions, such as for expenses shared by two or more employees, may be approved by the Fiscal Office.

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1.15.3

Approval Authority

Travel for the MCCCD District Governing Board, its employees and representatives must be authorized by the appropriate governing authority or its designees. All procurement practices must be followed, and an fully approved travel authorization document (approved by the Fiscal Office) made out to the traveler must be completed prior to the travel. It is the traveler’s responsibility to ensure all approvals are in place before travel.

In order for travel to be approved, the traveler must check the box on the Travel Authorization to certify that their expenses comply with Administrative Regulations 1.15 and 1.18, complete the on-line Annual Travel Acknowledgement prior to travel. Travel approval is delegated to each College President and each District Executive Vice Chancellor, or their designees, for all employees under their areas of jurisdiction. Travel approval for the Governing Board members, College Presidents, District Executives Vice Chancellors, shall be by the Chancellor or his or her their designee. A District Executive Vice Chancellor will countersign for the Chancellor's travel.

No District obligation exists to reimburse any employee for travel costs unless traveler is in an approved travel status prior to trip departure. Trips supported by professional growth development funds administered by the various MCCCD employee groups are subject to the rules and requirements stated in this policy. In some cases, the funding source (professional growth development fund guidelines, external grants, etc.) may have be more restrictive guidelines than

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this regulation. Except for the differences outlined in those programs, this regulation shall be applied consistently to all employee groups and to expenses paid from any source of MCCCD funds.

Funding Sources with Restrictive Guidelines: For travel situations that have more restrictive standards, such as external grants, professional growth, etc., In those situations, the provisions of the more restrictive funding source shall be followed. Except for the differences outlined by the more restrictive funding sources, this regulation shall be applied consistently to all employees and to expenses paid from any source of MCCCD funds.

Official Functions: Expenses incurred by a traveler for activities or events that are an official function must comply with the Official Functions Administrative Regulation (1.16).

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1.15.4

Transition Period for Travel Authorizations

Implementation of Automated Expense Reimbursement. In the near future, the District will be implementing an automated employee reimbursement system to gather travel documentation and process related expenditures. Changes to the College Financial System (CFS) will serve to encumber travel purchases, record related expenditures, and document approved travel status for travelers. Upon the implementation of this system, all colleges will be required to replace the existing Travel Authorization Form with the new process.

Interim Travel Authorization Process. Until the new system is implemented, colleges may continue to use the existing Travel Authorization Form to document approved travel status. Colleges may substitute the existing requisition/purchase order forms for the Travel Authorization Form provided that:

1. All information required for the travel authorization, including the purpose and tangible benefits of the travel, is recorded on the requisition/purchase order.
2. All levels of management currently required to approve travel must review and approve the requisition through the on-line work flow system.

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Limitations

Blanket Purchase Orders and MCCCD Procurement Cards. Blanket purchase orders and MCCCD procurement cards for travel expenses agencies should only be used for approved travelers with an approved travel authorization. Travel expenses for companions of employees should not be included in Maricopa funding requests, regardless of intent to reimburse.

Most Direct Route. Reimbursement is limited to expense of travel by the most direct and usually-traveled route, by the most economical means of transport. When determining the most economical means, both cost and traveler’s time must be considered. That portion of travel that is by indirect route, which is not in the best interest of the College/District, or is for personal business, will not be reimbursed. Excess travel time will be charged to annual leave.

Submitting Expense Report Travel Claim. Travel reimbursement requests must be submitted in the Financial Management System (FMS) to the Fiscal Office within 30 calendar days after the end date of the approved travel authorization or by the last business day of each calendar month or by June 30th of the current fiscal year, whichever comes first. If an activity trip concludes during the last half of June, special efforts must be taken to submit reimbursement requests by the last business day of the fiscal year for which the travel occurred. All reimbursement requests made after this timeframe require approval by the College President or designee and from the funding entity if professional growth funds are used.

Expense reports must be completed for every travel authorization, with the exception of Penny Travel ($.01), even if the employee is not seeking reimbursement.

Cost Overruns. Because estimates are used to develop trip budgets, travelers will be allowed a 10% tolerance level for over expenditures. No further approval by the governing authority is required. When the total expense of the trip exceeds 110% of the estimated total cost, reimbursement of the additional expense will be at the discretion of the governing authority that approved the travel authorization document.

Funding Sources with Restrictive Guidelines. For travel situations that have more restrictive standards, such as external grants, professional growth, etc. the provisions of the more restrictive funding source shall be followed.

Mileage. Mileage only travel authorizations for a single type of activity, such as site visits, may be created for an entire month or each individual trip. Mileage only expense reports reimbursements requests must be submitted in FMS to the Fiscal Office within 30 calendar days after the end of each calendar month or by the last business day of the fiscal year, whichever comes first.

Cash Advances. Cash advances for travel purposes will be approved only for student group travel in limited instances. Such instances include student groups, class trips, student clubs and organizations, or athletic teams. Supporting documentation that outlines how the advance amount was determined should be included as part of the travel authorization document. All Cash Advance requests must be fully approved at least 3 business days prior to departure for the payment to be received. It is the traveler’s responsibility to check the status of approvals in FMS. Every effort should be made to reduce the liability of the traveler(s) by pre-paying known expenses via purchase orders or charging expenses to a purchasing cardProcard. When settling cash advances, valid receipts are required and must be submitted within 30 days of completion of travel or the last business day of the current fiscal year, whichever comes first. Specific expenses as detailed in 1.15.10 are not allowed. Any amounts paid to or on behalf of a traveler that have not been
substantiated with an expense claim or valid receipts within 60 days of completion of travel will be deducted from the traveler’s wages.

**In-County Travel.** An approved travel authorization document is **not** required for in-county travel except when no costs are incurred. An approved travel authorization is always required for student group travel. Conferences when the only costs being incurred are registration and/or mileage as long as a purchase order requisition or Procard expense is in place for the registration fees, whether paid directly or as a reimbursement to the employee. Meals and incidental expenses are **not** reimbursed for local travel. The Chief Financial Officer Vice Chancellor for Business Services may approve travel expenses, including hotel stays, for certain conference formats that are held in-county.

**Personal Travel.** If transportation costs are increased due to a lengthened trip, the traveler is responsible for the increase and the traveler must pay for the transportation using a personal credit card and be reimbursed for the business portion of the fare after the completion of the trip to determine the amount of reimbursement.

Determine what the cost of the business portion of the fare, independent of the personal portion, would have been. The cost of the business portion of the fare is the lowest fare that would have been or would be available for the business portion of the trip if the business travel were booked at least two weeks in advance of departure and neither the departure nor the return were to fall on a holiday weekend.

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**Transportation**

Allowable expenses include are for airfare, personally owned vehicle mileage, bridge and road tolls, necessary taxi, shuttle, light-rail, subway, train/railroad, bus, ferry or streetcar fares, vehicle rental, and necessary parking fees.

Reimbursement will be made only for the method of transportation that is in the best interest of the College/District considering the travel expense as well as the traveler’s time. When more than one traveler uses the same privately owned vehicle, only one claim for mileage reimbursement will be allowed and other travelers should be identified. Reimbursement rates are set by the Arizona Department of Administration and are incorporated by reference.

**Driver’s License/Insurance**

1. Before any employee of the College/District operates any vehicle, including a personally-owned vehicle, while engaged in any work phase of their employment with MCCCD, either assigned or implied, they must:
   A. possess a valid Arizona driver’s license, and
   B. have read the MCCCD Administrative Regulation 4.14 for Motor Vehicle Usage.
2. The operator of a non-District personally-owned vehicle shall have in force a personal automobile insurance policy consisting of bodily injury and property damage liability limits which complies with Arizona Revised Statutes. Such personal automobile insurance policy shall provide primary coverage.

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The District’s insurance program may be considered excess coverage for operators of personally-owned vehicles in approved travel status once primary coverage has been exhausted.

The District’s insurance program provides coverage to authorized drivers of College/District vehicles when on official College/District business. Passengers must be on official College/District business. Personal property stolen or damaged in an accident in any vehicle is not covered by the District’s insurance program.

**College/District-Owned Motor Vehicles**

1. Every effort should be made to use a College/District-owned vehicle in place of personally-owned vehicles.
2. The use of College/District vehicles for transporting individuals not essential to the purpose for which the vehicle was dispatched is prohibited.

**Personally Owned Vehicle**

1. A traveler using a personally-owned vehicle for College/District business with supervisory and fiscal approval may receive mileage reimbursement regardless of eligibility for lodging or M&E reimbursement.
2. When the travel begins or ends at the individual’s residence, mileage shall be computed from the residence or the designated duty post, whichever is the shorter distance. Commute mileage is to be based on no more than one round trip to duty post per day.
3. When an individual is required to report to a duty post outside of normal working hours, reimbursement for mileage from residence to designated duty post and return is allowable.
4. A personally-owned motor vehicle may be used for out-of-state travel with supervisory approval. Reimbursement for mileage is limited to no more than the lowest cost mode of transportation and should be documented by traveler and approved prior to travel.
5. When a personally-owned vehicle is authorized for travel, reimbursement will be at the rate set by the Arizona Department of Administration computed by odometer readings or Online navigation mapping system. When using an Online navigation mapping system to determine mileage, a printout of the program showing the addresses and the calculation must be included with the travel claim.
6. If a traveler driving a personally-owned vehicle is involved in an accident and found to be at fault, his or her personal automobile carrier is responsible to the limits of the policy. If the claim exceeds that coverage, the District’s insurance program will at that time cover the amount over the policy limits if the traveler was acting within the course and scope of his or her employment. If a traveler driving his or her own vehicle on College/District business is involved in an accident, regardless of fault, the College/District will not reimburse the traveler for any physical damage to the vehicle.

**Rented Motor Vehicles**

1. Rented vehicles may be authorized when more economical means of travel are not available. Use of rented automobiles shall be limited to instances where it is to the advantage of the College/District and not for the personal convenience of the traveler. The governing authority is responsible for determining the type of vehicle rented as well as whether or not the advantages of using a rented vehicle outweigh the costs of other modes of transportation. Reimbursement of motor vehicle rentals must be substantiated by a valid receipt.
2. Travelers using rented vehicles will not be allowed to claim mileage. Reasonable gasoline purchases will be reimbursable if receipts are provided.

**Airlines**

1. Airfare may be purchased via a purchase order with an approved travel agency, with a valid procurement card, or as a reimbursement after travel has taken place. Caution: To reduce the liability to the traveler, every effort should be made to use a purchasing card Program or purchase order to an approved travel agency.
Reimbursement for commercial airfare may exceed the lowest fare only if seats are unavailable at the lowest fare and travel is imperative. In all cases, the decision to pay a higher fare must take into consideration the best interest of the College/District. Receipts are required for baggage fees. Reimbursements are limited to one bag except for reasonable allowances (examples are team travel or international travel).

2. Flight insurance purchased by the traveler is not reimbursable.

3. If a trip is canceled, every effort must be made to recover the credit. The following situations describe the factors to consider when reimbursing for cancellations:

   A. When the cancellation of the trip was within the traveler’s control, and:
      i. No credit is issued—the traveler must reimburse the District/College for the cost of the ticket.
      ii. A credit is issued—the credit must be used for MCCCD business travel or the traveler must reimburse the District/College.

   B. When the cancellation of the trip was outside of the traveler’s control and:
      i. No credit is issued—the District/College will cover the cost of the ticket.
      ii. A credit is issued—the credit must be used for MCCCD business travel or the traveler can “buy” the credit from the District/College for personal use. If the credit can’t be used, the District will absorb the cost of the ticket.

4. Change fees
   The purpose of the change fee must be clearly documented in order to be reimbursed.

   A. Change fees can be reimbursed if the change was due to a circumstance or event outside the control of the traveler.
   B. Change fees will be reimbursed if the change enabled the traveler to decrease the cost of the trip by returning earlier than originally planned.

Railroads and Buses
Railroad or bus travel may be used when convenient or economical and if excessive travel time and additional expenses do not result.

Ground Transportation

1. Tolls, taxi, parking, shuttle, limousine, light-rail, subway, train, streetcar, ride share, and non-airport parking are classified as ground transportation and can be claimed without receipts up to $25.00 per expense claim form. The most economical means of transportation shall be used in traveling to and from airports, train stations or bus terminals. Ground transportation for personal activities, such as sightseeing or travel to restaurants, is not reimbursable.

   A. Receipts required. Claims Expense reports with ground transportation exceeding $25.00 require receipts for ALL all amounts claimed. The purpose for the ground transportation claimed must be identified. In the event that receipts are not available (i.e., subways, buses, light rail), the traveler may submit a ground transportation log in lieu of receipts.

2. When traveling to and from airports, train stations or bus terminals, the most economical and reasonable means of transportation shall be used. To determine the most economical means of ground transportation, all factors such as car rental costs, parking, taxi fares, and/or available shuttle or limousine services must be considered.

   A. When departing Arizona, storage or parking for personally-owned vehicles at airports, train stations or bus terminals is allowed at economy lot rates. If a traveler is dropped off at the airport, no parking is reimbursable. When the traveler is picked up at the airport, up to one hour of parking may be reimbursed. Tips for transportation and baggage handling, as well as storage charges are to be paid from the traveler’s M&IE allowance.
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Meals and Incidental Expenses (M&IE)

A traveler shall be allowed reimbursement for actual cost of meals and incidentals in accordance with these rules not to exceed the per diem allowance rates. To be eligible for M&IE the traveler must be away from their residence or duty post substantially longer than an ordinary day’s work and be in approved travel status. See Student Group Travel Section 1.15.09 for additional M&IE information specific to student group travel.

Meal Allowances. Regardless of any circumstance or condition, a traveler may not claim more than three (3) meals in any single calendar day or in any period of twenty-four (24) consecutive hours. Meals and incidental expenses shall not exceed those amounts allowed by Travel Regulation. To claim any meal expense, the traveler must show where and when the trip begins and ends.

Rates. Rates for per diem allowances for both domestic and international travel can be found at here [link to https://maricopa.sharepoint.com/sites/DO/business/FSC/fsc-departments/accounts-payable/Pages/default.aspx] . When determining the rates for travel to Alaska and Hawaii, only the “local Meals” rate column is eligible for per diem. Travelers are NOT required to provide receipts when claiming per diem. When determining the rates for travel to Alaska and Hawaii, only the “Local Meals” rate column is eligible for per diem.

Note. The amounts allowed for meals are not intended to cover the entire cost of a meal taken while in travel status. The amounts are calculated to compensate the traveler for the estimated difference between the cost of a meal taken on the road and the cost of a meal prepared at home. The rate used for a meal should be based on the city in which the meal was consumed and not the traveler’s final destination.

Full-Day Allowance. Except as may be otherwise provided, a travel day of fourteen (14) or more hours shall be considered a full day and entitle the traveler to reimbursement for up to three (3) meals. Exceptions include circumstances under which the traveler is provided one or more meals during the course of a day by some other means (such as meals served at a conference or on a plane). Reimbursement shall not exceed the daily per diem.

Partial-Day Allowances. When the travel day is less than a full day as described above, the following guidelines shall be applied to amounts for M&IE:

1. Breakfast - when departure is prior to 7:00 a.m. and/or return is after 9:00 a.m.
2. Lunch - when departure is prior to 11:30 a.m. and/or return is after 1:30 p.m.
3. Dinner - when departure is prior to 5:00 p.m. and/or return is after 7:00 p.m.

Departure and return are measured from the time the traveler leaves and returns to their home residence and/or duty post. Allowances for departure times prior to a mode of transportation leaving (i.e. airplane) may be considered
reasonable. Partial day allowances for domestic and international travel are available at here [link to] https://maricopa.sharepoint.com/sites/DO/business/FSC/fsc-departments/accounts-payable/Pages/default.aspx.

**Meals Provided.** If the traveler does not purchase a meal or is provided a meal in the cost for other travel-related expenses, the traveler is not eligible for reimbursement for that meal. Regardless of menu, continental breakfast is considered a provided meal.

**Cost of meals included with other charges:** The traveler is not entitled to a meal allowance for meals provided free at an institution, on an airplane, included in conference registration fees or provided on a complimentary basis by the facility at which the traveler is lodged.

**Special dietary needs:** Meals satisfying special dietary needs will generally be provided by airlines, conferences, hotels, etc. if requested by the traveler. It is the traveler’s responsibility to make the necessary arrangements for such special meals on a timely basis. In order to claim a reimbursement for a meal when a traveler’s request for a meal satisfying a special dietary need has been denied, the traveler must provide a statement (with appropriate support) that details and certifies all of the following: 1) to whom such request was made; 2) by whom such request was denied; 3) the reason given for the denial; and 4) the special dietary needs of the traveler that could not otherwise have been accommodated.

**Meals for Student Group Travel.** The applied per diem amount for student group travel may be less than the published per diem rate. Whenever an employee (i.e., advisor or coach) receives funding for group or team meals, the meal form must state how the funds are being distributed and be signed when the distribution occurs. The use of prior signed meal forms is prohibited. Valid receipts are also required in instances when funds are not distributed to students, but the meals are paid for the group as a whole, or when all meals are paid from the advance.

**In County Meals for Group Travel.** Per diem at the applied per diem rate computed as a partial day allowance is allowed for students and MCCCD staff (i.e., coaches, trainers, and managers) traveling to approved events.

**Meals for a Group of Employees.** When a group of MCCCD employees are traveling together and one employee pays, the host total meal cost, the reimbursement for the meal will be actual cost, not to exceed the number of employees multiplied by the pro-rated per diem amount for the meal. An exception is allowed if the host must have has an approved "Official Functions Form" that was submitted in advance of the event. The "Official Function" activity will be reimbursed separate from the employee's travel expense. In either case, a valid receipt and list of participants must be submitted to substantiate the cost of the meal. Participating employees who did not pay shall not claim under the per diem rate for this meal. Official Function activity shall be limited to one meal per trip. Exceptions to this limit may be approved by the Chancellor or Chief Financial Officer Vice Chancellor for Business Services.

**Incidental Expenses.** Incidental expenses are included in the per diem rates for meals. No receipts are required.

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Lodging

**Lodging costs are allowable only when**

The traveler must be in approved travel status to be reimbursed for lodging costs. Lodging costs incurred will be **reimbursed allowable** only if traveler is required to be away from his or her residence or duty post substantially longer than an ordinary day’s work, and would not be able to return to their **home residence** or duty post by 9:00 p.m. Other lodging costs incurred may be **reimbursed allowed** if an emergency exists and the appropriate governing authority approves as designated in section 1.15.3. Lodging must be at a commercial establishment (excludes private residences and/or airBnB or similar) and the traveler is required to request the lowest available rate (government, commercial, corporate, conference, etc.).

The **Chief Financial Officer/Vice Chancellor of Business Services** may approve local hotel stays in-county lodging for certain conference formats. **Reimbursement which** requires prior approval.

**Receipts.** It is the traveler’s obligation, upon checking into the establishment, to assure that the establishment can provide a receipt containing the required information on the establishment’s letterhead or invoice.

**Reimbursement Amounts.** The **reimbursement allowable** amount includes room charges and applicable taxes, and should not exceed the Arizona Department of Administration rate index. (See Accounts Payable travel web page: here [link to] https://maricopa.sharepoint.com/sites/DO/business/FSC/fsc-departments/accounts-payable/Pages/default.aspx)

**Note:** **Reimbursement Allowable amounts** shall not exceed the actual amount of travel-related expenses.

**Rates.** The rates published in the Arizona Department of Administration rate index are limits for actual expenses and are not meant as a per diem for lodging expenses. If a situation exists that makes compliance with the maximums impractical, and the governing authority approves, actual lodging costs in excess of the Department of Administration’s rate index may be **reimbursed allowed**.

**Conference Travel.** For conference travel, **reimbursements approval** may be made at conference lodging costs. In these instances, the **reimbursement allowable** amount will be the actual lodging cost, plus tax and hotel fees, of the conference designated hotel. **When no vacancies exist in the recommended hotel(s) at the conference rate, reasonable accommodations at alternate hotels in the immediate vicinity of the conference may be considered as conference designated lodging when no vacancies exist at the recommended hotel(s) and may be reimbursed allowed** at the actual rate. **If the conference hotel is not sold out and if** the traveler chooses to stay in a hotel other than a conference designated hotel, **the traveler approval will be** for reimbursed the actual lodging cost, plus tax and transportation or parking, provided the total cost (including transport from hotel to conference and back or parking fees) does not exceed the conference designated hotel cost. **A brochure of the conference must accompany the requisition.**

**Shared Lodging.** When lodging is shared with another individual on College/District business, reimbursement will be made to the traveler who paid. When lodging is shared with an individual not on College/ District business (such as a spouse) **reimbursement the expense** shall not exceed the single room rate plus tax.

**Miscellaneous Business Expenses.** Communication charges, including telephone, internet access in any location, faxes and copies that are required for business purposes only are **reimbursable allowable.** Such charges and the business necessity should be identified on the travel authorization document. Travelers should note the party to whom business calls were made and/or purpose. Personal phone calls are not **reimbursable allowable.**

**AMENDED through the Administrative Regulation Process, March 27, 2013**
**AMENDED September 23, 2008, Motion No. 9510**
**AMENDED February 27, 2007, Motion No. 9413**
**AMENDED July 27, 2004, Motion No. 9260**
International Travel

All international travel, regardless of funding source or designation, must follow the International Travel Policy. See Policy here. [link to](https://district.maricopa.edu/regulations/admin-regs/section-6/6-13). The Chancellor has final approval of all international travel, regardless of funding source or destination. College Presidents have first line of authority for all international travel involving students, faculty, and staff at their colleges. District Executives Vice Chancellors have first line of authority for all international travel involving staff in their divisions. The Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost has the authority to recommend for the Chancellor’s approval any proposed student education abroad, faculty exchange, or curriculum development initiative or reject the proposals because outcomes are not clear, criteria are not met, or program is not rigorous enough.

An International Travel Proposal is required for all international travel. See here [link to](https://chancellor.maricopa.edu/public-stewardship/governance/administrative-regulations/appendices/fiscal-management/fm-11-international-travel-proposal-form)

Travel funded partially or entirely by outside sources. Travel funded by any outside source requires full compliance with the International Travel Policy, including completion of an International Travel Proposal.

Approval of claims expense reports. Traveler’s expense reports claims shall be approved by the traveler’s supervisor and the College/District Fiscal Office. Expense reports claims for College Presidents or District Executives vice chancellors are to be approved by the Chancellor or designee. Expense reports claims for vice presidents are approved by the College President. Governing Board Members and the Chancellor’s expense reports claims will be approved by a District Executive Vice Chancellor or designee. Reimbursement exceptions may be granted in extenuating circumstances upon review by the Chancellor or Chief Financial Officer/Vice Chancellor of Business Services. When an individual is to remain in approved travel status for longer than 30 days, the Governing Board must approve the claim of lodging and M&IE.

International travel is generally prohibited in instances where either the learning or professional growth opportunity exists in the United States or its territories. See the International Travel Policy for exceptions.

Reimbursement. Reimbursements are limited to those travelers in approved travel status. If expenses are to be incurred and/or paid, each employee must complete an International Travel Proposal prior to travel. For group travel (students only), the International Travel Proposal must include a list of students participating in the trip. For travel involving conferences, a conference brochure (or equivalent detailed documents) must accompany the travel proposal. For travel not involving a conference format, documentation to support estimated costs must accompany the travel proposal.

U.S. Department of State (US DOS) allowances will be used for reimbursement amounts for all international travel. The listed amount includes allowances for both lodging and M&IE. Links to information regarding reimbursement amounts for foreign areas is available on the Accounts Payable website: www.maricopa.edu/business/ap/travel.
M&IE. The daily total amount available for out-of-country M&IE should be allocated between meals, when necessary, using the following percentages (these percentages include allocating the incidentals that the US DOS identifies separately):

- BREAKFAST 20%
- LUNCH 25%
- DINNER 55%


Lodging. Please reference previous language within section 1.15.7 on allowable lodging expenses.

Conversion Rates. Conversion of foreign exchange should be completed by the traveler prior to submitting the reimbursement request. Conversion may take place prior to leaving Arizona or during travel with a receipt from an official banking establishment specifying the date, conversion rate, and amount converted. Conversion rates may also be calculated using the date each actual expense was paid from an official conversion web site of the traveler’s choice. Copies of the conversion table should be attached to the travel expense report claim form.

Ground Transportation. Receipts are required for ground transportation amounts claimed above $25.00. When receipts are not available, the destination and expense should be noted on the ground transportation log.

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AMENDED March 13, 2001, Motion No. 9021ADOPTED into Governance, September 24, 1996, Motion No. 8894
AMENDED Motion No. 8895
AMENDED Motion No. 8896

Founding Source:
Governing Board Meeting July 25, 1995, Motion No. 8424

1.15.9

Student Group Travel

One travel authorization document bearing the total expenses and supporting documentation for the entire group (students and employees) is required. Additional employees traveling with the group must have a separate approved travel authorization that references back to the group travel authorization. A list of students participating in the trip must accompany the travel authorization, if known at the time of submission. Student group travel also requires all appropriate student travel forms (i.e. Travel Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability, emergency contact, forms specific to student international travel, etc.) to be retained by the college apart from the travel authorization.

Meals. Group meals may be computed to a per person amount not to exceed 80% of the allowable per diem rates listed here [link to]: https://maricopa.sharepoint.com/sites/DO/business/FSC/fsc-departments/accounts-payable/Pages/default.aspx. Councils or activities may have more restrictive guidelines. The travel day begins at the time the student is required to report for the activity and ends when they are released from the activity.

Travel. Group travel always requires an approved travel authorization.
1.15.10

Travel and M&IE for Out-of-State Candidates and Finalists for Employment

The Governing Board authorizes the reimbursement of travel and M&IE expenses for out-of-state finalists for employment for Management, Administrative and Technological positions Grade 18 Classified Staff Grade 125 and above; finalists for residential faculty positions; and candidates and finalists for Chancellor’s Executive Council positions under the following circumstances:

1. The Chancellor, appropriate District Executive Vice Chancellor or College President verifies the need for an on-site interview and identifies appropriate funds to cover the costs of reimbursement.
2. Reimbursement will be limited to actual expenses and valid receipts. The most economical means of transportation that is available should also be used.

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1.15.11

Miscellaneous Travel Issues

Consultants. Travel for individuals not specifically covered by this Administrative Regulation, including consultants and other non-employees, should be included in the negotiated contracted for services.

Out-of-State Use of Equipment. Any out-of-state use of College/District owned equipment, including vehicles, must be specifically approved by the governing authority (as defined in 1.15.3). The guidelines set forth in the Off Premises Property Loan Administrative Regulation 1.11 also apply.

Non-Reimbursable/Non-Allowable Expenses. The following expenses are NOT reimbursable under any circumstances:

1. Alcohol
2. Airline or social club membership dues
3. Babysitting or childcare costs
4. Personal car repairs/routine maintenance or locksmith charges
5. Clothing, luggage, briefcases
6. Credit card delinquency fees/finance charges/annual fees
7. Expenses for travel companions/family
8. Trip cancellation insurance
9. Frequent flier miles
10. Preferred seating
11. Priority check in
12. Fast pass for TSA
13. Health club facilities, saunas, massages
14. Helicopter services for airport transfers
15. Kennel fees and pet care for pets while on travel status
16. Loss/theft of cash
17. Loss/theft of personal property (lost baggage, etc.)
18. Magazines, books, newspapers, or movies
19. Optional travel or baggage insurance
20. Parking or traffic fines
21. Personal accident or property insurance
22. Personal entertainment/grooming/gifts/souvenirs
23. Personal sightseeing/tourist activities
24. Overweight/oversize baggage fees (except with approval)

FAQs. Additional clarifying and procedural information can be found in the Travel Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document available on the District’s Travel Website. The FAQs are intended to address business processes or questions that arise as travel is reviewed and approved and will be updated as needed.

Other. Any travel issues that are not specifically addressed within this regulation require review by the Chief Financial Officer, Vice Chancellor of Business Services or the appropriate designee.

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Related Documents and Forms
Appendices
- FM-7 Official Function Form
- FM-9 Annual Travel Acknowledgement Form
- FM-11 International Travel Proposal Form
- FM-15 International Ground Transportation Log

Responsible Parties/Contacts
- Responsible Agent / Senior Leader
  Chief Operating Officer
- Regulation Owner
  Associate Chief Financial Officer and Controller
- Regulation Contact
  Associate Chief Financial Officer and Controller