

Staff Expense Reimbursement

Expense reimbursement for staff traveling on pre-approved district business will be governed by the following procedures. Travel expenses include travel fares, meals and lodging and expenses incident to travel. Only travel expenses as are ordinary and necessary in the conduct of approved travel for district business purposes and directly attributable to it will be reimbursed. As used in this regulation an “ordinary” expense means one that is common and accepted in the profession; a “necessary” expense means one that is essential and appropriate in order to conduct district business. Reimbursement procedures established by the district will also apply to Board members traveling on Board-approved district business, as applicable.

Reimbursement for pre-approved travel expenses and mileage reimbursement are processed on district forms attached to this Administrative Ruling - Business Expense Reimbursement Form; Mileage Reimbursement Form.

In-District Travel - Use of Private Vehicles

1. Private vehicles may be used in conducting district business only with prior building principal approval. In-district travel approval may be granted by the building principal for individual trips or by blanket approval, as deemed appropriate.
2. Travel in a private vehicle for the purpose of conducting district business may be approved when:
 - a. A district vehicle is not available;
 - b. The destination is not conveniently accessible by commercial carrier;
 - c. Various points must be visited and commercial carrier schedules are such that the use of commercial carrier transportation is not practical;
 - d. Carrying articles by commercial carrier would not be feasible;
 - e. Commercial travel is deemed to be less economical.

Out-of-District Travel (In-state) - Use of Private Vehicles

1. Private vehicles may be used only with prior building principal approval. Out-of-district travel approval may be granted by the building principal for individual trips or by the superintendent for blanket approval, as deemed appropriate.

Out-of-State Travel

Out-of-state travel requires prior Board and superintendent approval.

Insurance Coverage

1. Insurance costs are included as part of the mileage reimbursement for employees authorized to use a private vehicle to conduct district business. It is the responsibility of the owner or driver of the vehicle to be certain that the vehicle is adequately covered by insurance.
2. The responsibility of the district for damages resulting from vehicle accidents is not the same as set forth in the district's general liability insurance policy. The employee's insurance coverage provides primary coverage when the employee is driving his/her own vehicle on district business.
3. All district employees operating private vehicles on district business are required to complete and maintain on file with the district verification of vehicle liability insurance that meets or exceeds Oregon statutory minimum limits. This verification is required annually by the Personnel Office prior to any district approval to conduct district business in a private vehicle. Employees are required to update their verification of vehicle liability information maintained on file with the district upon any change in the employee's vehicle insurance coverage.

Meals and Meetings

1. Reimbursement will be made for ordinary and necessary meal expenses incurred in the course of approved travel for district business. Meals include amounts spent for food, beverage, taxes and related gratuities. Alcoholic beverages will not be reimbursed by the district. See Expense Reimbursement Request and Accounting Procedures below.
2. Expenses in excess of the district's established limit are ordinarily the responsibility of the employee and may be reimbursed only with superintendent approval. Receipts for all meal expenses must be secured and attached to the claim.

Travel Advances

1. A travel advance may be requested by completing the form provided by the district (Business Expense Form).
2. The cost of commercial travel tickets will not be included in a cash advance request.
3. In the event of loss, the employee is personally responsible for cash advances issued (purchase requisitions/orders can be obtained to pay carrier costs).
4. At least 15 business days are required for processing an advance check after the approved request is received by the business office.
5. Only one cash advance may be outstanding to any employee at any time.

Reservations, Commercial Carrier and Lodging

1. Travel must be conducted in the most expeditious and cost-effective manner, as determined by the district.
2. Each employee is responsible for making his/her own reservations by obtaining a purchase order number from the business office and furnishing that number to the local travel agency or commercial carrier.
3. Individuals traveling on approved district business by a carrier offering travel credits (i.e., frequent flyer mileage, etc.) are required to account for credits received and may use the credits for future approved district travel purposes only. The district prohibits the accrual of travel credits for individuals traveling on approved district business.

Vehicle Rentals

1. Rental vehicles may be used only when approved in advance by the superintendent.
2. Rental of a compact vehicle is recommended when suitable for approved district business because of the lower initial rate and the guaranteed rate. Certain rental agencies guarantee the compact rate in all owned stations and in most licensee stations, which means that if a reservation for a compact vehicle is accepted and one is not available, a standard-sized vehicle will be substituted at the compact rate.
3. Rental vehicles will be used only for official travel. Any additional costs incurred for other usage will be the personal responsibility of the traveler.
4. If the district (via a purchase order) rents the vehicle and pays for the rented vehicle the liability and physical damage coverage of the district extends to the rental. If the employee rents and pays for the vehicle district's policy will not cover the rental and the employee will have to purchase the insurance coverage from the rental agency.

Cancelled Trips

1. If an employee cannot leave at the scheduled time, it is his/her responsibility to call the travel agency or carrier and arrange to have the tickets cancelled or exchanged.
2. Commercial carrier reservation cancellations must be made at least 24 hours before departure time, whenever possible.
3. Lodging reservations must be cancelled by the employee as soon as possible to avoid a cancellation charge.
4. If a trip is cancelled after an advance and/or tickets have been issued, the advance and tickets must be returned to the business office immediately.

5. Documentation of any cost incurred by the district due to the cancellation of a trip must be approved the superintendent before costs are can be reimbursed.

Personal Travel Combined with District Business Travel

1. Superintendent or designee must be aware of personal travel being combined with district travel. Employee must receive prior approval to combine. As part of the trip reimbursement request, district would need a detailed plan of what dates where personal versus business.
2. If an individual traveling on approved district business engages in both business and personal activities, travel expenses incurred will be reimbursed only for expenses that are ordinary and necessary in the conduct of district business. Expenses incurred as a part of personal business are the sole responsibility of the traveler.
3. When personal travel is combined with approved district business travel and the individual is traveling by less than the most expeditious and cost-effective manner, any additional costs must be paid by the traveler.
4. Time away from work caused by traveling by less than the most expeditious means available for personal purposes must be charged to vacation or other appropriate leave.
5. Vacation or other personal leave may be taken in conjunction with approved district travel subject to the following:
 - a. Time delays related to approved district business are charged as working time even if no work is performed;
 - b. If the employee travels by less than the most cost-effective manner, as determined by the district, for approved district business or for personal travel combined with travel for district business purposes, he/she must pay the additional cost (e.g., increased fare, meals, lodging expenses, etc.) incurred as a result of the personal travel;
 - c. All subsistence and local transportation (taxi, vehicle fare, etc.) while on vacation status or other appropriate leave must be paid by the employee;
 - d. The traveler will not be required to pay any of the basic transportation costs incurred as a part of the approved district business, even though he/she spends a substantial part of the total time away from home on vacation or other personal leave, provided the employee was traveling on approved district business and received prior approval from the district;
 - e. A traveler who decides on his/her own to conduct district business without prior approval, while on vacation or other personal leave, cannot then use this as a justification to have the district pay his/her basic transportation cost from the district to the location visited, or submit a request for other expense reimbursement.

Expense Reimbursement Request and Accounting Procedures

1. Reimbursement requests detailing actual expenditures must be submitted on the district's travel expense form and approved by the building principal in writing. Receipts and supporting documentation must accompany all expense reimbursement requests. This includes, but is not limited to, receipts for transportation, lodging, meals, registration, conference and workshop fees.

All requests must be submitted to the district office within 10 business days of the conclusion of the trip.

- a. If the completed travel expense report totals less than the travel advance, the difference must be returned within 10 business days to the business office with the report.
 - b. Reimbursement for expenditures in excess of a travel advance, or where no travel advance has been requested, will be made within 30 business days after the approved travel expense report is received by the business office.
2. Expenses which consist primarily of the cost of furnishing meals for others will be reimbursed upon submission of a travel expense report which includes:
 - a. Names of guests;
 - b. Organizations involved;
 - c. Full explanation of the district business purpose of the meeting.
 3. In the event a vehicle was rented, a copy of the rental agreement must be attached to the travel expense report. The rental charge should be paid from the amount advanced, as applicable. Purchase of gas and oil which have been deducted from the rental charge by the rental agency must be included.
 4. Any claim for mileage reimbursement only may be submitted at the end of each month in which reimbursement is to be claimed. A claim must be submitted no later than 90 calendar days of incurring the expense. Reimbursement claims later than 90 calendar days of the expense will be denied.
 5. Mileage for approved district business travel in a private vehicle will be reimbursed at the current rate per mile established by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), as applicable.
 6. Meal expenses for approved district business travel purposes may be reportable as income to the employee in accordance with IRS regulations. Generally, meal expenses incurred for approved district business purposes in which district business is conducted with at least one or more other persons or that is incurred on approved district business for a trip that is overnight, or long enough that the individual needs to stop for sleep or rest to properly perform his/her duties, as defined by the IRS, will not be reportable as income to the employee. Absent an explanation with the reimbursement request, a 1099 will be flagged for the amount of the reimbursement.
 7. In the event the total of the amount charged to, and/or received from, the district by the employee as advances, reimbursement or otherwise, exceeds the ordinary and necessary business expenses, the excess must be reported as income in accordance with IRS requirements.

Reimbursable Expense Limitations

1. Meal expenses may be reimbursed subject to the following limitations:
 - a. Maximum Daily Allowance = \$55.00

2. Gratuities must not exceed 20 percent and must be included as a part of the receipt. Gratuities in excess of 20 percent are the responsibility of the employee and will not be reimbursed by the district.

All receipts must be attached, substantiating request for reimbursement. Form must be completed totally. If not preprinted on receipt, write names of restaurant on meals receipts and itemize meals. If daily meal receipts total more than \$55.00, please attach an explanation and rationalization. If you paid for persons other than yourself, please list individuals' names and positions (attach additional page, if necessary).

3. Other expenses such as toll charges, parking fees, valet services, cleaning, pressing and laundry may be reimbursed if length of trip or circumstances demand.
4. Mileage reimbursement for actual miles traveled on district business, may be approved subject to the following limitations:
 - a. In-district mileage reimbursement will not be granted to an employee, other than a district-approved tutor, for traveling from his/her residence to the place where work begins for the day or for returning home from the last place worked during the day;
 - b. Reimbursement will be made only for those miles actually traveled in the course of completing approved district business. When chauffeured, mileage for two round trips and short-term parking will be reimbursed if not greater than the cost of one round trip plus economy parking;
 - c. Group travel may be requested on one travel request form for a group traveling together as long as advance and reimbursement is payable to one person who has complete responsibility for reporting expenses;
 - d. In the event a private vehicle is approved for use from home, to or from airport or railroad station, mileage for one round trip and economy parking will be reimbursed. Parking receipts are required;
 - e. Individuals requesting reimbursement for use of a private vehicle on approved district business must meet insurance requirements. See Insurance Coverage above.
5. Lodging will be reimbursed at reasonable commercial rates.
6. Local taxi, shuttle, bus fares and vehicle rentals may be reimbursed, subject to the district's requirement that travel selected is by the most expeditious, cost-effective manner, as determined by the district.



Fern Ridge School District 28J
School Business Expense Reimbursement Request

Name: _____ Date: _____

School: _____

Estimated Cost: _____

Are you requesting a cash advance? No Yes - \$ _____

Purpose of expense:

What account in your budget will be reimbursing this expense?

Administrator Pre-approval: _____ **Date:** _____

*If travel or expenses are incurred out of state/country, Superintendent's signature is required.

COMPLETE BELOW WHEN ACTUAL EXPENSES ARE KNOWN. ATTACH ALL RECEIPTS.
Attach additional sheet(s) if necessary.

Date	Description	Transportation	Lodging	Meals	Other	Total
Column Totals						

Administrator signature below indicates review and approval of expenses attached.

Subtotal	
Less cash advanced	
Total owed to you	

Administrator: _____ Date: _____

All receipts must be attached, substantiating request for reimbursement. Form must be complete.



Fern Ridge School District 28J Daily Mileage Log

Name: _____

Date	Times	Odometer	Total Miles	Destination	Purpose
	Depart ____ : ____ AM/PM Return ____ : ____ AM/PM Total ____ : ____	Start _____ End _____ Total _____			
	Depart ____ : ____ AM/PM Return ____ : ____ AM/PM Total ____ : ____	Start _____ End _____ Total _____			
	Depart ____ : ____ AM/PM Return ____ : ____ AM/PM Total ____ : ____	Start _____ End _____ Total _____			
	Depart ____ : ____ AM/PM Return ____ : ____ AM/PM Total ____ : ____	Start _____ End _____ Total _____			
	Depart ____ : ____ AM/PM Return ____ : ____ AM/PM Total ____ : ____	Start _____ End _____ Total _____			
	Depart ____ : ____ AM/PM Return ____ : ____ AM/PM Total ____ : ____	Start _____ End _____ Total _____			
	Depart ____ : ____ AM/PM Return ____ : ____ AM/PM Total ____ : ____	Start _____ End _____ Total _____			
	Depart ____ : ____ AM/PM Return ____ : ____ AM/PM Total ____ : ____	Start _____ End _____ Total _____			
	Depart ____ : ____ AM/PM Return ____ : ____ AM/PM Total ____ : ____	Start _____ End _____ Total _____			

Charge to Account: _____

Total Amount Due: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Administrator: _____

Date: _____

Please return completed information to: Fern Ridge School District 28J
Attn: Business Office
88834 Territorial Road
Elmira OR 97437