

Valtena G. Brown, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Operating Officer
 School Operations

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR STUDENTS TO TRAVEL OUT-OF-COUNTRY

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: EDUCATION

A request has been received for students to travel out-of-country. All arrangements are in accordance with the School Board Policy 2340 - Field and Other District-Sponsored Trips and with the School Board Policy 8640 – Transportation for Field and Other District-Sponsored Trips.

School	Destination	Date	Approximate # of Students/ Chaperones	Cost	Airline	Educational Purpose
Palmetto Middle School	San José and Monteverde, Costa Rica	3/19/15 to 3/25/15 One School Day	40/5	\$1,875	Jet Blue Airlines	Students will interact utilizing the Spanish language while exploring science and natural history.
Ponce de Leon Middle School	Montreal and, Quebec City, Canada	6/9/15 to 6/14/15 No School Days	17/2	\$2,192	American Airlines or another major airline carrier	Students will learn the importance of Canada in the establishment of the culture and customs of the United States.

The students and teachers participating in the above-mentioned trips will be registered with the U.S. Department of State by utilizing their on-line Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) which is a free service provided by the United States Government. By registering trip participants with STEP, the Department of State can better assist them in an emergency.

Students will provide a written report to their principals summarizing the highlights, experiences and educational value of the trip. The reports will also be posted on the schools' websites for other students to review.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve the:

1. out-of-country field trip to San José and Monteverde, Costa Rica, for the students at Palmetto Middle School.
2. out-of-country field trip to Montreal and Quebec City, Canada, for the students at Ponce de Leon Middle School.

VGB:mf