

**412 EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to identify school district business expenses that involve initial payment by an employee, and qualify for reimbursement from the school district, and to specify the manner by which the employee seeks reimbursement.

Approved 2008, Revised 2009, 2021

**412 EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT****II. AUTHORIZATION**

The Board will reimburse employees for normal expenses for hotel, food, registration, required materials, and commercial transportation and other reasonable and necessary expenses incurred while attending authorized conferences or other activities whose purpose is related to instructional or operational improvement in the District. Arrangements for attendance must be approved in advance by submitting the form, "School Related Absence/Staff Development-1" (SRA/SD-1), to the Superintendent or designee and entering their absence in the Sub-System Absence Reporting database. The participant may attend without loss of compensation in accordance with their contract and/or current procedure.

**III. REIMBURSEMENT**

- A. Individuals assigned to be in a travel status away from the employee's temporary or permanent work station shall be reimbursed as indicated below. Receipts are not necessary for meal allowances.
- B. When personal vehicle transportation is used in professional travel, the individual will be reimbursed at the IRS allowable mileage rate.
- C. When prior approval has been granted by the Superintendent or designee, special expenses, such as registration or conference fees, banquet tickets or meals, car rental or ground transportation, etc. incurred as a result of school business shall also be reimbursed.
- D. Advance payment may be made if the estimated cost of the travel expenses is expected to total at least three hundred dollars (\$300.00).

**IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECTIVES AND GUIDELINES****Meal Allowance**

Employees assigned to be in travel status between the employee's temporary or permanent work station and a field assignment shall be reimbursed for the cost of meals under the following conditions:

Breakfast reimbursements may be claimed only if the employee is on assignment away from his/her home station in a travel status or departs from home in an assigned travel status before 6:00 a.m.

Eligibility for noon meal reimbursement shall be based upon the employee being on assignment, over fifteen (15) miles from his/her temporary or permanent work station, and/or with the work assignment extending over the normal meal period. However, any employee may claim lunch reimbursement when authorized by their supervisor as a special expense prior to incurring such expense.

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Dinner reimbursements may be claimed only if the employee is on assignment away from his/her home station in a travel status overnight or is required to remain in a travel status after 7:00 p.m.

Only food and non-alcoholic beverages will be reimbursed.

If meals are included with the registration fee, no reimbursements will be provided.

**Reimbursement Amount**

The maximum reimbursement for meals, including tax, shall be the current IRS standard reimbursement rate.

**Standard Rates:** (The total standard reimbursement rate = \$41.00 per day)

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|--------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Breakfast | Standard Rate = \$7.00  |
| 2. Noon Meal | Standard Rate = \$11.00 |
| 3. Dinner    | Standard Rate = \$23.00 |

The above amounts may be increased with prior approval of superintendent or School Board Chair.

If seeking reimbursement on an actual cost basis, an itemized receipt is required.

**Reimbursement of Supplies:**

Employees will not be reimbursed the sales tax on the purchase of supplies.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 471.665 (Mileage Allowances)  
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 1035 (August 23, 1999) (Retreat Expenses)  
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 161b-12 (August 4, 1997) (Transportation Expenses)  
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 161B-12 (January 24, 1989) (Operating Expenses of Car)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 214 (Out-of-State Travel by School Board Members).