

Early Light Academy Travel Policy



PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for the authorization of, and payment for, travel by employees or Board members of Early Light Academy (the “School”) who are required to travel to fulfill their official duties or to attend conventions, conferences, seminars, or other professional or educational events or meetings benefiting the School (“School-related business”).

POLICY

1. This policy applies to all approved travel by employees and Board members on School-related business. For purposes of this policy, School-related business does not include an employee’s regular daily travel to and from work or a Board member’s travel to and from a regular Board meeting.
2. Travel for School-related business by employees must be approved in advance by the Executive Director in order for the School to pay for the travel expenses as set forth in this policy. Travel for School-related business by the Executive Director or a Board member must be communicated to the Board in advance of the travel, where possible. Payment for all travel-related expenses is subject to, and must be approved in accordance with, the School’s Purchasing and Disbursement Policy.
3. Employees must submit their travel requests to the Executive Director, and the Executive Director and Board members must communicate their travel requests to the Board, at least three (3) weeks prior to departure date and prior to making or paying for any travel arrangements, where possible. Such travel requests submitted to the Executive Director and communications to the Board must explain the purpose of the travel and, where applicable, include the nature of the School-related business, proposed lodging accommodations, and approximate airfare or mileage, as applicable.
4. Per diem for meals and incidental expenses shall be paid for all approved travel events that are more than 100 miles from the School. The School shall pay per diem for meals and incidental expenses in accordance with the federal per diem meals and incidental expenses rates established by the U.S. General Services Administration (“GSA”). Where possible, the per diem shall be paid to the traveler by check no fewer than 48 hours prior to departure date.
5. Reasonable and necessary flight reservations for approved travel events shall:
 - a. Be personally made and paid for by the traveler and then reimbursed by the School based on receipts submitted by the traveler for such expenses. The traveler must provide receipts for all flight reservations for which reimbursement is sought; or
 - b. Be made and paid for by the School.

Absent extraordinary circumstances, first class flight reservations are not considered reasonable and necessary under this policy.

6. Reasonable and necessary ground transfer expenses (e.g., taxi, public transportation, ride share, parking, etc.) for approved travel events shall be personally paid for by the traveler and then reimbursed by the School based on receipts submitted by the traveler for such expenses. The traveler must provide receipts for all ground transfer expenses for which reimbursement is sought.
7. Reasonable and necessary mileage incurred by the traveler for approved travel events shall be reimbursed by the School at the standard IRS mileage reimbursement rates in effect at the time.
8. Reasonable and necessary lodging accommodations for approved travel events shall be made and paid for by the School in accordance with the daily lodging rates established by the GSA. However, under extenuating circumstances and only after receiving approval from the Executive Director or the Board, travelers may personally make and pay for reasonable and necessary lodging accommodations for approved travel events. A traveler in this situation shall be reimbursed by the School based on receipts submitted by the traveler for such expenses. Such reimbursements by the School shall not exceed the lodging rates established by the GSA plus any associated required taxes and fees for the lodging.
9. Lodging accommodations shall be approved for the number of days an approved travel event is in session, less one. However, this is subject to the following exceptions:
 - a. One additional night of lodging accommodations shall be approved when an additional travel day is required prior to an approved travel event;
 - b. A second additional night of lodging accommodations shall be approved when an additional travel day is required after the approved travel event concludes; and
 - c. Other additional nights of lodging accommodations shall be allowed only when approved in advance of the approved travel event by the Executive Director or the Board President, as applicable.
10. School employees who have been issued a School credit card may use their School credit card to pay for approved flight reservations, ground transfer expenses, and lodging accommodations in accordance with this policy only after receiving approval from the Executive Director. Such School employees may also use their School credit card to pay for other reasonable travel-related expenses only after receiving approval from the Executive Director. The Executive Director may also use his/her School credit card to pay for the same travel expenses listed above in this paragraph in accordance with the School's Credit Card Policy and Purchasing and Disbursement Policy. However, School credit cards shall not be used for per diem for meals and incidental expenses, as per diem will be paid to travelers by check in advance of approved travel as explained earlier in this policy.

11. School employees and Board members shall submit an expense report related to an approved travel event to the Executive Director within sixty (60) days from the end of the trip.
12. The School shall not fund travel expenses that are unrelated to the approved travel purpose. Similarly, the School shall not reimburse travelers for travel expenses that are unrelated to the approved travel purpose or which are determined by the School to be excessive.
13. Either the Executive Director or the Board may authorize individual exceptions to this policy if they, in their sole discretion, feel an exception is appropriate under the circumstances.