

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA STATEMENT

No. 8f

MEETING OF June 11, 2025

REVIEWED BY:

ITEM TITLE:

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve out of state travel for Kayhi students.

[X] Superintendent

[X] Kayhi

SUBMITTED BY: Kelly Smith, Activities Director

CONTACT PERSON/TELEPHONE:

David Mitchell (907) 225-9815
Name Phone

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

Michael Robbins (907) 247-2109
Superintendent Phone

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The School Board's approval is sought for the Ketchikan High School Students to travel to New York City and Washington D.C. in October of 2025.

ISSUE:

Per Board Policy 6153, all school-sponsored trips to out-of-state locations require approval of the School Board.

BACKGROUND:

Social Studies teacher, Dave Mitchell, shared that students have traveled to Washington, D.C. with the Close Up program three times, in 2017, 2019, and 2023, totalling 73 students. The students who complete the program learn about our nation's history and government, and always return to my class much more engaged in learning more. This year we have decided to take the trip on our own, rather than through a program. This dramatically decreased the cost, and made it affordable to Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors.

How many students are going? 42

How much school missed? 6 days

RECOMMENDATION:

School administration recommends approval.

ATTACHMENTS:

- ASAA approved Out of State Travel Form
- Letter from Dave Mitchel, Social studies teacher

FISCAL NOTE:

Funds for the trip will come from raised funds.

RECOMMENDED ACTION (**ONLY if not approved as part of the Consent Calendar**):

"I move that the Board of Education approve the out-of-state travel request for Kayhi students to travel to Washington D.C. and New York City, from October 11-20, 2025, to participate in a trip that helps instill a call to civic participation for our aspiring leaders"



Rick Dormer– Principal
Jared Garlick– Asst. Principal/
Kelly Smith – Activities Director

Fax Number 907-247-5761
Telephone 907-225-9815

April 24, 2025

KGBSD School Board,

I have been bringing students to Washington, D.C. with the Close Up program three times, in 2017, 2019, and 2023, totalling 73 students. The students who complete the program learn about our nation's history and government, and always return to my class much more engaged in learning more. I have found it to be very rewarding, for students, and the concept of "government" and "history" becomes personal, instead of a distant institution they have no part in. There is also an important cultural component as well, with art museums, Broadway shows, urban life and an architectural tour. Among the many benefits, this trip helps instill a call to civic participation for our aspiring leaders.

This year we have decided to take the trip on our own, rather than through a program. This dramatically decreased the cost, and made it affordable to Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors who can work this summer or participate in fundraisers in order to pay for the trip. Some of the students have already fundraised half the cost of the trip. Because of the reputation of the trip and being able to lower the costs, 42 students signed up to go to Washington, D.C. and New York City October 11-20, 2025.

Although students are the most important part of the program, this is an important trip for myself and other teachers as well. I bring back a lot of what I learn on site- Holocaust Museum, Mount Vernon, Ellis Island, Civil War sites, the Supreme Court, Capitol Building. I share all of these experiences with my students in Government, U.S. History, Economics and Law classes, and they have been an inspiration to me in my teaching career. But looking at the students in my classroom, I know that just sharing my experiences and showing pictures is not enough, and what a phenomenal and motivational experience it is for students to be immersed in learning.

I have confidence that an opportunity to be involved in this academic trip provides students the inspiration and connection they need to become civically engaged. I appreciate your support for this academic opportunity.

Sincerely,
David Mitchel
Social Studies Teacher
Ketchikan High School

OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL REQUEST

Out-of-state travel for interscholastic competition during the school year must be approved by the Executive Director. Use this form to request approval.

School

Ketchikan High School

Date of request

06, 11, 2025

Team, group or organization requesting travel

42 Students - Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors

Out-of-state destination

Washington D.C. & New York city

Departure date

10, 11, 25

Return date

10, 20, 25

Describe the out-of-state competition

Event Title: Close UP - self ran trip

Type of Competition (invitational, tournament, etc.):

Tour Washington DC & New York city

School administrator's permission

The above named school team/organization has my permission to travel for out-of-state competition.

School Administrator (please print) _____

School Administrator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Executive Director's decision

☐ APPROVED ☐ DISAPPROVED

Executive Director's signature

Comments

ALASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

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