

General Personnel

Expenses

The Governing Board regulates the reimbursement of all travel, meal, and lodging expenses by resolution. Money shall not be advanced or reimbursed for: (1) the expenses of any person except the employee, (2) anyone's personal expenses, or (3) entertainment expenses. Entertainment includes, but is not limited to, shows, amusements, theaters, circuses, sporting events, or any other place of public or private entertainment or amusement, unless the entertainment is ancillary to the purpose of the program or event. Employees must submit the appropriate itemized, signed, standardized form(s) to support any requests for expense advancements, reimbursements, or purchase orders that show the following:

1. The amount of the estimated or actual expense, with attached receipts for actual incurred expenses.
2. The name and title of the employee who is requesting the expense advancement or reimbursement. Receipts from group functions must include the names, offices, and job titles of all participants.
3. The date(s) of the official business on which the expense advancement or reimbursement will be or was expended.
4. The nature of the official business conducted when the expense advancement or reimbursement will be or was expended.

Advancements

The Executive Director may advance expenses to teachers and other licensed employees for the anticipated actual and necessary expenses to be incurred while attending meetings that are related to their duties and will contribute to their professional development, provided they fall below the maximum allowed in the Board's expense regulations.

Expense advancement requests must be submitted to the Executive Director or designee on the Cooperative's Professional Development Request form for employees. After spending expense advancements, employees must use the Cooperative's Request for Reimbursement form (p. 2 of Professional Development Request form) and submit to the Executive Director: (a) the itemized, signed advancement voucher that was issued, and (b) the amount of actual expenses by attaching receipts. Any portion of an expense advancement not used must be returned to the Cooperative. Expense advancements and vouchers shall be presented to the Operational Board in its regular bill process.

Reimbursements

Expense reimbursements may be issued by the Executive Director or designee to employees, along with other expenses necessary for the performance of their duties, provided the expenses fall below the maximum allowed in the Governing Board's expense regulations.

Expense reimbursements are not guaranteed and, when possible, employees should seek pre-approval of expenses by providing an estimation of expenses on the Cooperative's Professional Development Request form for employees, except in situations when the expense is diminutive. When pre-approval is not sought, employees must seek

reimbursement on the Cooperative's Request for Reimbursement form (p. 2 of Professional Development Request form) for employees. Expense reimbursements shall be presented to the Operational Board in its regular bill process.

Use of Credit and Procurement Cards

Credit and procurement card usage is governed by policy 4:55, *Use of Credit and Procurement Cards*.

Exceeding the Maximum Allowable Expense Amount(s)

All requests for expense advancements and reimbursements exceeding the maximum allowed in the Governing Board's expense regulations may only be approved when:

1. The Governing Board's resolution to regulate expenses allows for such approval;
2. An emergency or other extraordinary circumstance exists; and
3. The request is approved by a roll call vote at an open Operational Board meeting.

Registration

When possible, registration fees will be paid by the Cooperative in advance.

Travel

The least expensive method of travel will be used, provided that no hardship will be caused to the employee. Employees will be reimbursed for:

1. Air travel at the coach or economy class commercial airline rate. Business class air travel will be reimbursed only if emergency circumstances warrant. The emergency circumstances must be explained on the expense form and Operational Board approval of the additional expense is required. Copies of airline tickets must be attached to the expense form.
2. Rail or bus travel at actual cost. Rail or bus travel costs may not exceed the cost of coach airfare. Copies of tickets must be attached to the expense form to substantiate amounts.
3. Use of personal automobiles at the standard mileage rate approved by the Internal Revenue Service for income tax purposes. The reimbursement may not exceed the cost of coach airfare. Mileage for use of personal automobiles in trips to and from transportation terminals will also be reimbursed. Toll charges and parking costs will be reimbursed.
4. Automobile rental costs when the vehicle's use is warranted. The circumstances for such use must be explained on the expense form.
5. Taxis, airport limousines, or other local transportation costs.

Meals

Meals charged to the Cooperative should represent mid-fare selections for the hotel/meeting facility or general area. Tips are included with meal charges. Expense forms must explain the meal charges incurred. Alcoholic beverages will not be reimbursed.

Lodging

Employees should request conference rate or mid-fare room accommodations. A single room rate will be reimbursed. Employees should pay personal expenses at checkout. If that is impossible, deductions for the charges should be made on the expense form.

Miscellaneous Expenses

Employees may seek reimbursement for other expenses incurred while attending a meeting sponsored by organizations described herein by fully describing the expenses on the expense form, attaching receipts.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-22.32.
Local Government Travel Expense Control Act, 50 ILCS 150/.

CROSS REF.: 2:125 (Board Member Compensation; Expenses), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 4:50 (Payment Procedures), 4:55 (Use of Credit and Procurement Cards)

Adopted: 5/8/2000

Revised (Rewritten): 12/12/2016