

International Trips Report

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Mike Fedisson

Pre-COVID19 Trip Plans for 2020 & 2021

June 2020	Spain/France	WL Dept Brittany McCamley (lead) Victoria Smith, Emily Zimdahl-McManus, Ashley Waite, Kylie Knauff, and Mike Fedisson Chaperones: 6	#students: 40 Dates: June 18-29, 2020 Airport: Pittsburgh Charter bus to airport
Jul/Aug 2020	Ireland, Scotland, England	ELA HS-Ashlie Crosson Kaysey Beury-ELA Josh Diehl	#travelers: 18 3 chaperones 3 parents 12 students July 10-20, 2020 DC Airport
2021	Australia/South Pacific	Kelley Kreiger (English) Allyson Durney	Spring 2019 Recruitment 9 students 2 parents 2 chaperones July 15-26, 2021 State College Airport
2021	Dominican Republic	Erica Gall Ryan Myers	Fall 2019 Recruitment 10 students 1 parent 2 chaperones Departure approx July 6-19 State College Airport

Timeline of Information exchanges

Mid-March: working with EF Tours since early March to look at options and information related to travel as the situation evolved. A key deadline for parent decisions is April 30.

3/20/2020: K Krisch spoke with Ben, our EF Rep to discuss options and parent communications; trip leaders have been in touch with parents over the last month with at least 2 communications to discuss options and let them know that the district would make a formal decision in mid-April.

Timeline Cont'd

4/14/2020: Dr. Saylor, Mrs. Krisch, Mr. Fedisson meeting to discuss options and make some preliminary decisions

- The UK trip may be canceled
- The World Language trip to Spain/France will be rescheduled for Summer 2021 (current seniors-2020- will not be permitted to attend this trip)
- We will discuss with EF what options will be if there is still risk to students in the summer of 2021; create a timeline for decision-making.

Options Parents will have based on these decisions:

- Cancel their student's participation. EF froze further fees from Feb. 24-April 30. Fees for getting a cash refund/canceling are: \$500 cancellation fee (they waived losing the \$95 fee and \$165 insurance fee). This is in accordance with EF's formal cancellation/refund policy for the status of the trip as of March. This protects EF's investment in tours that have already been paid for. Cancellation fees increase after April 30. (April deadline has since been removed)
- Future Travel: parents, in essence have paid for the trip and can send their student on a rescheduled trip with no additional price increase, even if EF's costs increase.
- Future Travel Voucher: This is like a gift card. All monies paid in would be credited to the student for any future travel with EF Tours on any of their products. They have adult tours (GoAhead tours), college study tours, Ultimate Spring Break tours, Language tours, ANY FUTURE BASD tours, etc. They have also created a Graduating Seniors Only line of tours that vouchers can be used for. These trips are only for 2020 graduates and are for less mature adults (aka...non-drinking, more structured tours than the college tours) but would only operate late summer/fall of 2020 (will check to see if dates have changed since March).

These vouchers are valid until Sept. 30, 2022.

- If canceling the UK trip, we would suggest to parents/students that if they are not seniors, they join the Spain/France trip, Australia, or the Dominican Republic tours for 2021. Although if they are not graduating in 2021, they could also consider 2022 trips.
- Anyone who takes a VOUCHER can TRANSFER it to another traveler (anyone, not just BASD students). They can privately sell it and EF will work with them to transfer the voucher to another traveler.

4/15/2020 meeting with EF Tours, Mr. Fedisson, Karen Krisch, Brittany McCamly (Spain/France trip leader), Ashlie Crosson (UK Trip leader)

- It was decided that Ashlie would reach out to her travelers and see if there was any interest in a postponed trip to Summer 2021 and if there were enough to meet the 12 traveler criteria. (12 travelers means that both required chaperones can travel for free--most staff will not travel if they cannot go for free). Board policy only requires 6.
- We held firm that seniors could not travel in 2021, in essence, one year past graduation. EF Tours is willing to reach out to these seniors and organize a trip that would include these seniors traveling together if they would like this option. This would NOT be organized by any district employee and would not be a school sanctioned trip.
- It appeared there would be enough travelers to postpone the Spain/France trip to Summer 2021, this was tentatively agreed upon.
- EF would move all travelers into the new dates giving the Senior parents a little more time to make a decision about the voucher vs. the refund. Any students who are moved into a 2021 trip still have the usual options to take a voucher or refund as per EF current policies up to 110 before the 2021 trips.

Trip updates from leaders

4/18/2020

Updates provided by trip leaders by Friday evening.

- Parents of seniors upset in general; just one more senior thing removed
- 4/17/2020 11pm report from Ashlie Crosson, UK Trip Leader
 - 11 students/ parents still interested in postponing UK trip to 2021
 - For each chaperone to travel for free, we need 12.
 - Not all families have made a firm decision
- Spain/France
 - 6 families of Juniors expressed a desire to cancel as they need the \$
 - If they drop out, the numbers for this trip are down to 14 travelers
 - Not all families have made a firm decision.

One more phone call: 4/20/2020

Update after a phone call between Karen and Ben from EF late 4/20/2020

- The April 30 deadline to decide is not there anymore.
- All students will be “re-scheduled’ into 2021 trip, including seniors. Seniors (2020) will have until the 110 day mark (around Jan/Feb 2021) to either take a voucher for a future (personal EF trip) or a refund minus \$500. All others can remain on trip, choose a voucher, or choose a refund. Students will not be permitted to leave the Spain/France trip or UK trip to transfer to another BASD trip unless they are permanently cancelled rather than postponed.
- If WE cancel either trip, the above options still remain. There was concern from me that if the numbers go under our board requirement of 6, that we would be penalized. Again, we have until the 110th day prior to trip to make this determination. If WE cancel, kids can choose another BASD trip, EF trip, future travel voucher, or refund (-\$500).

Fast Facts

- **Cancellation fees increase above \$500 for parents who want that option at the 110th day prior to 2021 re-scheduled trips. Vouchers, if chosen, are good until Sept. 2022 with NO \$ lost; all paid funds transfer. These vouchers can be “sold” and transferred to other travelers or family members.**
- We have allowed trips with more than 6 but less than 12 to travel as long as chaperones were aware that the second chaperone would have to pay for their trip and the district would not reimburse any costs to them. In the travel industry, it is standard for a free chaperone trip per 6 travelers. As a coordinator, dealing with this over the last 5 years has been a huge problem even though we’ve muddled through the issues. District policy requires 2 chaperones. Traveling parents have served as additional chaperones on occasion.
- You cannot have more than a 50/50 ratio of students to adults as then it does not qualify as a student trip in the eyes of EF Tours.
- I cannot find it in policy (I thought it was there) but I (Karen) was told by Superintendents and the board in the past that graduating seniors could only travel the summer they graduate, not beyond. These are student trips based on and to supplement curriculum. Beyond the summer, these criteria are not really being met. There is also the fact that graduating seniors attending a trip one year later would not be considered students.

Board Policy

[Link to Policy 121.2 as approved in March 2020](#)

Excerpts from the policy that may apply to your decision:

The District will maintain a 10-year travel plan. The District, however, may at the discretion of the superintendent or designee adjust the plan based upon the safety, health, welfare of attendees, or other unforeseen circumstance(s).

All trips must have a minimum of 6 students

The Superintendent shall have the authority and discretion to cancel any field trip without prior notice if the Superintendent determines that canceling the field trip is in the best interest of the health, safety, or welfare of the field trip attendees. By way of example, the Superintendent may cancel field trips in response to declared states of emergency, extreme weather conditions, terror alerts issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, etc. The district will assume no responsibility for any such cancelation.