

## Permissibility of International Travel Expenses

Query – 10.22.2007

<b>Query:</b> Will travel charges be allowable for a group of science, language arts, and history teachers in k-12 schools to travel to San Salvador? The trip focuses primarily on science.	
<b>From:</b> Tennessee	
<b>Responses:</b>	
Alabama	We have funded an independent study program for several years that permits out of country travel. There is nothing in the regs that I know of that restricts the geographical location of travel provided it meets the intent of professional development.
Kentucky	Several years ago, when I headed the Eisenhower Program here in KY (which I no longer do), we allowed travel expenses for middle school science teachers led by a university geology professor to travel to San Salvador to compare land formations there and in central KY. While previous directors had hesitated to support international travel, I thought it a particularly beneficial form of P/D (even, frankly, just the act of procuring a passport) for a population that, by and large, is "insular," to say the least. There are many people in this state who never leave their home county, and our demographic studies indicate that approximately 90 percent of the graduates of KY high schools who enroll in college do so in-state. In an increasingly global economy, both foreign language study and study abroad opportunities are becoming much more important. As I said, I no longer manage this program, but I would strongly support use of Title II funds for travel abroad.
Utah	Wow! This seems extravagant unless the information coming back from San Salvador will change the course of student learning in Tennessee. NCLB is a national mandate. Somehow this needs to be squared with international travel. Good luck!
Minnesota	I would have serious concerns about allowing international travel with Title II funds. Regardless of the value of that particular trip to teachers, we have to be concerned about how grant expenditure is viewed. In addition, in the early years (the '80s) of the program a state had to address concerns that arose when an international trip was taken with Title II funds and as I recall the U.S. Office of the Inspector General was involved in investigating the international travel. I would not want to open a state's program up for question from state auditors, federal auditors, Congress, or the general public.
Georgia	In Georgia we have had number of out of the country experiences - we pay all expenses EXCEPT the airfare out of the country -expecting that as a local contribution.