



Fayette County Public Schools

Executive Summary Fayette County Public Schools Board Meeting Agenda Item

MEETING: Planning

DATE: 1/12/2026

TOPIC: Freedom Tours

PREPARED BY: Matt Marsh

Recommended Action on: 1/26/2026

Action Item for Vote (REGULAR MEETING)

Superintendent Prior Approval: No

Recommendation/Motion: A motion is in order to approve the contract with Freedom Tours.

Background/Rationale: A fifth-grade class trip to Washington D.C. offers a powerful educational experience by bringing to life key concepts from the 5th grade curriculum. Students can see the branches of government in action by visiting the U.S. Capitol, the Supreme Court, and the White House, making abstract ideas about civics and democracy more concrete. Walking through monuments and memorials, such as the Lincoln Memorial and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial connects them directly to American history and the struggles for justice and equality. The Smithsonian museums provide hands-on learning opportunities across a range of subjects, from science at the Air and Space Museum to art and culture at the National Museum of Natural History. This immersive experience helps students develop a deeper appreciation for their national heritage and fosters a sense of civic responsibility beyond the classroom. The trip also offers significant STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) learning opportunities. At the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, students can explore the principles of flight and space exploration, seeing firsthand the engineering behind rockets and spacecraft. The National Building Museum provides a fascinating look into architecture and engineering, allowing students to learn about structural design, construction techniques, and the history of urban planning. The National Cryptologic Museum offers a unique way to engage with STEM through the history of codes and ciphers. Students can learn about the mathematics and logic behind creating and breaking secret messages, from ancient methods to modern cybersecurity. The museum's exhibits on historic artifacts like the Enigma machine provide a hands-on look at how technology and engineering have been used to protect information. This direct connection to the world of cryptography helps students understand the importance of computer science and critical thinking in national security and everyday digital life. Along with the curricular connections listed above, travel offers

its own inherent chances for growth and learning. When navigating the ins and outs of a trip, students get to practice problem solving skills and teamwork. They also get to try new things which helps them grow as a person. These new experiences and challenges help them to become more independent and curious about the world around them.

Strategic Priority:

- ☒ Student Achievement ☒ Unity, Belonging & Student Efficacy
- ☐ Highly Effective, Culturally Responsive Workforce
- ☒ Outreach & Engagement ☐ Organizational Health & Effectiveness

Data Considerations: N/A

Policy: 01.11

Fiscal Impact: \$74,147

Attachments(s): Freedom Tours Contract