



Kids go for days at recent YMCA summer day trip. Trips are available every Wednesday through August.

YMCA sponsors field trips

The next YMCA all-day trip to be held Wednesday, July 20, will take youngsters 7 and older hiking in the woods of Tryon Creek State Park, near Lake Oswego. This park offers many opportunities for learning as well as for fun with its numerous nature trails and interpretive center featuring exhibits and movies about the plants and animals of the area.

The cost of \$3.75 includes chartered bus transportation from YMCA centers in North, Northeast and Southeast Portland and Oak Grove with buses leaving in the morning and returning by 5:30 p.m. Youngsters should bring a sack lunch to eat at the park.

For registration and further information call 223-YMCA.

Ed Center offers performing arts

The PSU Educational Center, located in the Martin Luther King Neighborhood Facility at 7th and Wygant, is currently offering a class, "Orientation to Theatre Performances" as a part of its summer program. The 8-week workshop deals with the fundamentals of performance, staging, and elementary design. The instructor is Roger Reid, performing artist at the Metropolitan Arts Commis-

sion. Workshops are Monday and Wednesday from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Room 23. All ages are encouraged to participate.

Interested persons may register at the Center. Registration fees for the 8-week workshop are \$6.00. For information call 223-3864.

YWCA campers HEW finds PPS not in compliance

plan reunion

The YMCA of Columbia-Willamette will hold a reunion of all campers who have attended Camp Meehan, located on Spirit Lake in Washington, on Sunday, August 14, at the Camp. Former campers dating back as far as 1911 are invited and asked to call the YMCA Camp Office to be placed on a mailing list. At present, the oldest known camper is Helen Miesner, who is reported to have attended in 1911.

Portland Y members first camped at Spirit Lake in 1909 when the first expedition hiked from Castle Rock up the Toutle River and camped in pup tents on the south shore of the lake which is now occupied by the Forest Service public campground.

In the 1940's, property on the north shore was obtained in a trade with the St. Helena Mining Company and a boys' residence camp was developed.

In 1962, the infamous Columbus Day storm all but destroyed the camp and its buildings. For several years, the camp was closed and was used only as a base camp for trail hikes. In the early 70's, work parties began the clean-up operation, removing over a million board feet of fallen timber from the property.

Camp Meehan was reopened in 1972 as a coed wilderness camp for teenagers. Today, it is also the site of the Y's annual Labor Day Family Camp and a city-sponsored Career Training Program. In winter Meehan is used occasionally for survival training camps.

Former Meehan campers are urged to contact the YMCA to place their names on the reunion mailing list. For information call 223-9622.

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compliance, a waiver of intelligibility for participation in the Emergency School Aid Act program is requested pursuant to section 705(d) of the ESAA - 20 U.S.C. 1605(d) - and section 45 CFR 185.44 of the program regulations.

The following information addresses each of the points outlined in your letter and presents the District's specific corrective remedies:

A. Discriminatory Practice

"Those suspensions which last substantially longer than five days as a result of the student's parents or legal guardian not in compliance with the District's suspension policies will be conducted in a manner that does not discriminate against minority children. Actually, we have held the belief that our suspension regulations do not discriminate at present. This belief was not controverted by information brought to our attention prior to your investigation and, as stated above, since your investigation. Nevertheless, you have identified the need for improvements in our procedures that have merit. Hence, we assure you that the Portland school district will be in full compliance with 45 CFR 185.43(d)(4) commencing with the opening of the 1977-78 school year.

On the basis of this assurance of appearing for a conference (hereinafter long term suspensions) apparently occur more frequently both proportionally and absolutely to minority children. Because of this...it is our conclusion that this practice is prohibited discrimination within the meaning of 45 CFR 185.43(d)(4)."

Response

The District's policy requires that student suspensions be made only in instances where other types of counseling or other measures have not been successful. More importantly, suspension is not used as a punitive measure but as a device for assuring that the parents will come to school and help provide the kind of support necessary to resolve the most serious types of problems. By no means do we expect that the implementation of suspension policies should result in discriminatory practices. Therefore, to remedy the effects which you have identified, the following measures will be instituted.

1. A reasonable effort will be made to notify parents or guardians of suspended minority students by phone within one day of the suspension date to make arrangements for a conference.

2. Suspension letters requesting a conference will be mailed to the parents or legal guardians no later than one day after the effective suspension date.

3. If parents or guardians continue to fail to respond to either the letter or phone call, school personnel will utilize a variety of techniques to effect the conference. Included could be an exchange of adequate written communication, an appropriate telephone conference, or in special cases, locating the conference nearer to or in the home. School staff members, including principals, vice principals, administrative assistants, teachers, and counselors shall have responsibility for such contacts. Staff will be notified of this obligation in an administrative letter from the Superintendent's office. As a backup to this function, the services of specialist personnel from each of the District's three decentralized area offices will be utilized in the event that school staff members are unable to make such contacts.

4. In circumstances where the parents are unavailable during normal school hours, an effort will be made to conduct a conference at a time convenient to the parents.

It should be noted that District policy, with few exceptions, limits suspensions to no more than five days. The practice of allowing suspensions to extend for more than five days is exceedingly serious, when the school, in addition to the parent, fails to restore the student to enrollment. The provisions cited in our response will no doubt correct this problem in all but the most difficult cases of failure to respond by the parent. In such cases, it may be necessary to extend the period of suspension under a proper revision of the District's regulations; i.e., the student cannot be permitted through actions of either the parent or the school, to become an "accidental dropout". Should the student's attendance in those circumstances be terminated, it must be under existing provisions of Oregon compulsory school attendance statutes.

B. Discriminatory Practice

"A second discriminatory practice can also be traced to the existence of long term suspensions as part of your district's disciplinary practices....Accordingly, a disproportionate number of parents of minority students are confronted with the problem of traveling above average distances in order to attend a suspension conference. The added difficulties created by this situation contribute to the unwarranted disproportionate impact upon minority students of long term suspensions."

Response

While we recognize the fact that distance may create an additional burden for some parents, it is desirable for parents to be involved in a conference following suspension action. The measures mentioned for Item A will be used to, in part, remedy this deficiency. Additionally, transportation services or car fare reimbursement for parents will be provided when such help is necessary.

C. Discriminatory Practice

"A second impact of the problems of increased distance to school created for the largely minority population of transfer students under the voluntary transfer plan is the frequent, albeit nonuniform, practice of imposing suspensions based on an accumulation of a fixed number of incidents of being late to school. On some occasions it appears that one such instance of tardiness may result in suspension should the individual school principal believe such policy to be appropriate. It appears that in applying such an attendance rule, based on a set number of incidents of tardiness, no consideration of the increased problems of transfer students in getting to school on time is taken into consideration. Failure to take into account the problems of transfer students in this regard is a practice which falls disproportionately on minority children in that most transfer students are minority students...."

Response

District policy does not prescribe quotas or fixed numbers of tardiness beyond which a suspension is automatic. To clarify this, the administrative letter referred to previously will advise principals that they must take into consideration the distance which students travel in analyzing whether or not a student problem of sufficient importance exists that suspension will be required to

initiate a parent conference. This understanding will also be highlighted in our principal workshops taking place during this summer. In addition, other resources and strategies such as the use of counselors to make parent contacts will be utilized. It is believed that parents desire, and in fact demand, accountability on the part of the school and their children, and failure on our part to adhere to acceptable standards of attendance would be a violation of our responsibility. Individual case analysis and determination will thus preclude the application of an automatic number criteria which some schools have apparently used.

Records of all suspensions will be maintained in each of the District's three decentralized area offices. Schools will report suspensions each grading period and will include: (1) student name, (2) date suspended, (3) reason, (4) length of suspension, and (5) race. An evaluation of student suspension practices will be made at the end of the 1977-78 school year.

It should be emphasized that the District has every intention of providing full and satisfactory remedies to insure compliance with 45 CFR 185.43(d) of the ESAA regulations. However, it also needs to be pointed out that the more intricate details of making our plans operational and fully effective will be worked out during the summer months prior to the opening of school.

Again, we assure you that the Portland school district will be in full compliance. It is our hope that you act favorably upon this request for a waiver.

Sincerely,
Robert W. Blanchard
Superintendent
Portland Public Schools

Tax law liberalizes deduction

Beginning with Tax Year 1977, individuals who must move for employment reasons can look forward to liberalized deductions for some of the expenses related to their moves.

Ralph Short, IRS District Director in Oregon, cautioned that this change is effective for Tax Year 1977. Under the new law, eligible taxpayers can deduct their moving expenses if their new job is 35 miles (decreased from 50 miles) further from their former residence than was their former place of work. Individuals who had no former place of work may figure the distance from their former residence to their new job site, Short said.

Another liberalization in business move expenses concerns the maximum deductions for costs of househunting before moving and temporary living expenses. The maximum deduction has been raised to \$1,500. Previously, the limit was \$1,000.

A third change for 1977 applies to expenses related to buying, selling, or renting a principal residence. The maximum deduction is now \$3,000, up from \$2,500. This deduction, however, must be reduced by the amount of any deductions taken for househunting or temporary living expenses.

Details on moving expense deductions can be found in Publication 521, "Tax Information on Moving Expenses," available free in all IRS offices. It is also available by calling the statewide, Toll-free IRS forms order number.

Seminar explores church music

A seminar to discuss various aspects of Church music will be held at the Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, on Saturday, July 16th, from 10 a.m. to noon.

A major portion of time will be devoted to answering questions from the participants. The seminar leader will be Miss JoAnn

Richardson, a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University. Miss Richardson has a degree in music and is presently taking advanced studies at the New England Conservatory of Music, Boston, Massachusetts.

The seminar is open to the public. The church is located at 3138 N. Vancouver Avenue.

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