

## WATER-RELATED FIELD TRIPS

### RISK CONTROL:

- Lifeguards are the best accident prevention strategy. They should be certified by the Red Cross in Adult CPR, Standard First Aid and Lifeguard Training. The generally accepted lifeguard to swimmer ratio is 1:25, but that would need to be lowered at times if the exposure area is larger and contained a higher percentage of depths greater than standing level height.
- Before students are allowed to begin any water activity, a strict review of the rules governing the area needs to be provided and the rules must be strictly enforced from the first moment. Especially in open areas like lakes and the ocean, particular attention should be given to any governing signage.
- Field trip supervisors should review with the parents or guardians the swimming capabilities of all the students under their charge so they can advise the lifeguards if any of the children have drifted into areas that they cannot handle based on their prior experience.
- Under no circumstances should any student be allowed to go in the water wearing regular street clothes.
- Procedures to follow in the case of an accident should be established and reviewed.