**Washington State Ferries**

**Policy Change**

Dear WSF Account Holder,

Washington State Ferries wanted you to know that we are enacting a new policy requiring at least 72 hours’ notice to ride the ferry by schools throughout the state. The safety and well-being of all riders is WSF’s top priority. In order to ensure they have enough lifejackets for students, we are requiring schools to report the number of children weighing less than 90 pounds who will be riding the ferry. Children over 90 pounds can use adult lifejackets.

In order to reserve space for buses, vans or personal vehicles traveling with your group and to ensure adequate lifejackets, please fill out the form at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/infodesk/faq/school](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/infodesk/faq/school) at least 72 hours in advance of travel and submit it to WSF wsfschools@wsdot.wa.gov. This information is needed for student groups traveling in vehicles as well as those groups walking on. If we receive this less than 72 hours in advance, we will not be able to ensure boarding.

The policy for school outings otherwise remains the same. WSF offers a school discount available to students and chaperones on educational related field trips. A letter is required, printed on the school district’s letterhead and signed by an administrator or transportation coordinator, stating that this is a school-sponsored function or field trip. The letter, along with the appropriate vehicle and driver fare plus an additional $2, is given to the ticket seller at the time of travel. Each vehicle is required to have an original, signed letter (photocopies are not accepted). This allows for a $2 fare to cover every passenger in the vehicle. If the group is walking on, then it is only $2 for the entire group.

Questions concerning WSF’s policy change requiring 72 hours’ advance notice for school groups can be directed to Susan Harris-Huether, Senior Programs Manager, Customer and Communications Programs, 206-515-3460.