

Problem-Solving for a Successful Field Experience

- Limited Budgets
 - Use available resources as much as possible
 - Meet and dismiss from the school within school hours to use existing school transportation
 - Request in advance bagged lunches from the school cafeteria
 - Use spaces in the school or other schools and public places such as libraries and museums
 - Use parents as extra staffing
 - Carpool
 - Ask for discounts at educational sites
 - Ask your friends for related resources
- Limited time in the day
 - Utilize a block schedule or set aside entire days
 - Have meetings and PD outside of the scheduled day to free up instructional time
 - Develop effective systems in the classroom to capture transitional time
 - Incorporate curriculum in the experience so time is used for multiple objectives
- Limited time in the year
 - Plan overnight or weekend events
 - “Stack” testing to limit time lost
 - Have summer bridge or other orientation events outside the school day
- Limited space
 - Utilize common spaces in the school: auditorium, gym, cafeteria, large classrooms, outdoor spaces
 - Use other public and private buildings including nearby schools, libraries, and churches
 - Branch out into multiple classrooms as the schedule allows
- Student behavior
 - Thoroughly teach expectations at each site you will visit
 - Plan for “down time” where students can relax and not have to be on their best “museum” behavior: try a quiet word game or structured group initiative
 - Build multiple reminders and support work into the schedule (written and verbal)
- Reluctant hosts
 - Let sites know your group’s activity level
 - Meet with host site in advance to determine their rules and expectations
 - Request a current or former teacher as your liaison if available
 - Share with the host site your rules and expectations, and what you have taught students about their behavior while there (including plans for down time)