

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Items
October 17, 2006

SUBJECT: Amendment to Rules Relating to School Transportation

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approval of the amendments to the following rules:

- 6A-3.006 Pool Purchase Plan for Purchase of Equipment and Contractual Needs; Department of Management Services, Division of Purchasing Authorized to Negotiate Contracts.
- 6A-3.0121 Responsibility of School District and Parents for Students with Special Transportation Needs Who are Transported at Public Expense.
- 6A-3.0141 Employment of School Bus Drivers.
- 6A-3.016 Responsibilities of Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Operations for Student Transportation.
- 6A-3.0171 Responsibilities of School Districts for Student Transportation.
- 6A-3.0291 Specifications for New School Buses.
- 6A-3.037 Alternate Engine Fuels for School Buses.

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Sections 1006.21-1006.27 and 1012.45, Florida Statutes.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The rules listed above are amended to make the following changes: deletion of unnecessary and obsolete provisions relating to the state volume purchasing program for school buses; updated provisions relating to statutorily mandated program for bidding of school buses, drug and alcohol testing services, and purchase of other commodities and services that may be needed by school districts; removal of provisions specifying distinctions for transportation of students with special needs that may be inconsistent with federal law; specifying school district responsibilities to inform parents regarding the safety of students while in transit to and from school and to and from bus stops; updating requirements for school bus operators relating to new, statutorily required commercial driver license school bus endorsement; removal of references to specific paper-based forms for systems in which reports to the Department of Education have been automated; requiring school board policies prohibiting use of cell phones by school bus operators while driving and prohibiting unnecessary idling while in the vicinity of students; requiring that school bus operators driving on field or activity trips instruct all passengers regarding locations and proper

use of emergency exits; require that school bus operators check their buses after each trip to ensure that no students are left on board; and update requirements for school buses powered by alternative fuels to allow for newer technologies, such as hybrid diesel-electric power.

Facilitator: Charles Hood, Administrator, Office of School Transportation

Supporting Documentation Included: 6A-3.006 Pool Purchase Plan for Purchase of Equipment and Contractual Needs; Department of Management Services, Division of Purchasing Authorized to Negotiate Contracts.

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