

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 18, 2003

**SUBJECT: Rules 6A-3.0171, Responsibilities of School Districts for Student Transportation, and 6A-3.0291, Specifications for New School Buses.**

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### **PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

For Approval.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Revisions to Rule 6A-3.0171, FAC, are to:

- 1) Update procedures and pass/fail criteria for statutorily required monthly inspection of public school buses (Section 1006.22, FS) contained within the adopted Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Manual.
- 2) Provide school districts with authority to perform inspections at intervals not to exceed 30 school days, versus the current requirement that they be performed at intervals not to exceed 20 school days.

These changes were researched and approved by the Florida Association for Pupil Transportation (FAPT). The updates to inspection procedures and criteria are to provide for appropriate inspection of new or revised equipment items since the last time the Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Manual was revised. The revised inspection interval authority, also recommended by FAPT, is to allow school districts to perform inspections at the longer 30 school day interval allowed by the advent of new safety equipment (for example, automatically adjusting air brakes). Former Section 234.02, FS, required monthly inspections every 20 school days; Section 1006.22, FS, effective January 7, 2003, provides the State Board of Education authority to adopt rules related to inspection procedures, including determining the inspection interval. The FAPT determined that the recommended 30-day interval will allow school districts to maintain the current high level of safety of public school buses.

Revisions to Rule 6A-3.0291, FAC, are to update Florida School Bus Specifications for new school bus equipment items. Recommended revisions incorporate changes researched and approved by the FAPT that bring Florida school buses into compliance with the latest federal standards and National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures. The changes provide or improve safety equipment (e.g., remotely controlled mirrors for student and traffic visibility), reliability of school buses, and lower their cost of operation. Florida School Bus Specifications are typically revised each two years in order to respond to users' needs related to student safety, driver ergonomics, and cost-effectiveness (reduced life-cycle cost of buses), and to keep pace with changing technology.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:**

State of Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Manual, 2003 Edition (Separate document)

Florida School Bus Specifications 2002 Revised (Separate document)

**Facilitators/Presenters:**