

SUMMARY OF CHANGES FOR PROPOSED RULE 6A-3.0291, FAC.

Rule changes to bus specifications (Rule 6A-3.0291): Section 1006.25, FS, requires the State Board of Education to adopt specifications for public school buses. Rule 6A-3.0291, FAC, is the resulting implementing regulation, and Florida School Bus Specifications are adopted by reference. All buses sold in the U.S. must meet the basic requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (for example, the requirement that school buses incorporate padded, compartmentalized seating systems, a key safety requirement). The Florida specifications document is about 150 pages of technical requirements that tell manufacturers how Florida school buses must be built to exceed the federal requirements. The purpose is to ensure that the buses incorporate adequate safety features (for example, yellow coloration, flame retardant seating, etc.), as well as features that reduce the cost of operating and maintaining the buses (for example, diesel engines). The Florida Specifications specify those items that school district transportation providers have said are necessary to ensure safety and economy, and they are revised periodically (usually every two years, hence this proposed rule change) to incorporate changes and improvements in technology. All proposed revisions are submitted by citizens and school district transportation personnel, and are researched and approved for forwarding to the SBE by school district transportation personnel. There are no special interest groups deciding these recommendations to the SBE.

Examples of key updates in Florida bus specifications contained in this revision are:

- a. enhanced school bus air conditioning component warranties (based on recent premature failures)
- b. technical references to new transmission models that replace previous models
- c. revisions to circuit breakers to reduce possibility of bus fires
- d. new mirror systems with remote adjustment and wider range of view (based on observed misadjustment of current systems)