

6A-3.0171 Responsibilities of School Districts for Student Transportation.

Each school district shall exercise specific powers and responsibilities, as follows:

(1) Responsibilities of Superintendent. It shall be the duty of the superintendent, acting as executive officer for the school board to exercise functions and to perform duties listed below:

(a) through (e) No change.

(f) To organize or approve an inspection, maintenance and repair service for publicly owned, charter school owned, and ~~or~~ contracted buses ~~designed~~ to ensure that the condition of each bus is maintained to meet or exceed accepted school bus industry and state standards, and which will be adequate to provide for quick and economical repair of any bus, and to make sure that this service functions efficiently.

(g) To propose garages at which buses shall be inspected, when arrangements for this service have not been made to use school board employed mechanics, and to see that inspections are systematically made at least once every thirty (30) school days, while school is in session, at garages approved by the board.

(h) To make periodic, objective surveys of school bus and garage equipment, routes, safety practices, repair and operating costs, and when unsatisfactory conditions are discovered, to recommend corrective measures to the school board.

(2) The school district shall exercise additional specific powers and responsibilities, as follows:

(a) through (f) No change.

(g) To adopt, after considering recommendations of the superintendent statements of policy in harmony with law and with rules of the State Board of Education necessary for maintaining the requirements of adequate transportation. Such policies shall include at least the following responsibilities of the director or supervisor of transportation, the school principal or other designated staff and the bus operator for uniform school bus operating procedures:

1. through 2. No change.

3. Responsibilities of the school bus operator:

a. through j. No change.

k. To observe all procedures incorporated in the Florida Department of Education's Basic School Bus Operator's Curriculum, revised 2021 as incorporated by reference in paragraph 6A-3.0141(3)(4)(b), F.A.C.

l. through u. No change.

v. To wear a seat belt and instruct all passengers to wear a seat belt at all times when the bus is in operation, in accordance with s. 1006.25(4), F.S.

w. To use roof-mounted white flashing strobe lights, (~~if equipped~~) at a minimum, whenever headlights are required to be used due to reduced visibility conditions pursuant to Section 316.217(1)(b), F.S., except that insufficient light due only to the time of day or night shall not require use of the strobe light.

x. through z. No change.

(3) Transportation personnel.

(a) No change.

(b) To employ or contract only for services of school bus operators who meet the requirements of ~~rule~~ Rule 6A-3.0141, F.A.C.

(4) Transported students.

(a) through (b) No change.

(c) To suspend for a period not to exceed ~~exceeding~~ ten (10) days, upon recommendation of the superintendent, any student who willfully and persistently violates school board policies, in accordance with s. 1003.01(5)(a), F.S.

(5) through (7) No change.

(8) Inspection and maintenance of school buses.

(a) To provide, after considering recommendations of the superintendent, adequate storage, maintenance and inspection procedures for all buses owned by the school board, and to assure that all contract buses and charter school buses in use in the district are properly inspected and maintained in accordance with law and rules of the State Board of Education.

(b) The inspection shall be conducted in accordance with procedures and include all items listed in the State of Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Manual, 2020 Edition (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12218>) and documented on the Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Form (2020-IF) (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12215>), effective October 2020. The manual and form 2020-IF are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this rule. These documents may be obtained from the department's ~~Department's~~ website at: <http://fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7585/urlt/0085485-floridaschoolbussafetyinspectionmanual-1.pdf> and may also be obtained from the department's School Transportation Management Section, ~~Department of Education,~~ 325 West

Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, at a cost not to exceed actual production and distribution cost.

(c) Inspection of buses shall be scheduled and performed at a maximum interval of thirty (30) school days while school is in session. Any bus that is removed from service or deadlined so as to disrupt the safety inspection schedule shall be inspected prior to being returned to service. All deficiencies discovered during the safety inspection shall be noted on the inspection form (2020-IF). Follow-up repairs of all safety related items shall be made before the bus is returned to service and shall be documented on an associated repair order.

(d) School bus inspections shall be conducted by technicians certified as school bus safety inspectors in accordance with the State of Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Manual, 2020 Edition. The State of Florida School Bus Safety Inspector Application (Form 2020-SI) (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12216>), effective October 2020, and the District Online Test Administrator Application (Form 2020-TA) (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12217>), effective October 2020, are hereby incorporated by reference and made part of this rule. These documents may be obtained from the Department's website at: <http://fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7585/urlt/0085485-floridaschoolbussafetyinspectionmanual-1.pdf> and may also be obtained from the department's School Transportation Management Section, ~~Department of Education~~, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, at a cost not to exceed actual production and distribution cost. The requirement that inspections be performed by a certified Florida School Bus Safety Inspector may be waived for a period not to exceed six (6) months when an emergency condition exists, upon written notification to the Commissioner of Education by the district superintendent.

(e) No person shall knowingly render inoperative or reduce compliance of any school bus equipment required to meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards applicable at the time of manufacture.

(9) Transportation records, reports and accounting.

(a) through (f) No change.

(g) To report bus inventories using the department's ~~Department's~~ Online Bus Inventory Application (Form 420), which may be accessed at <http://app4.fldoe.org/BusOnlineInventory/Login.aspx>. ~~The Department's Online Bus Inventory Application, Form 420~~ (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-07938>) is hereby incorporated by reference, effective March 2017. For viewing purposes only, hard copies of the reporting requirements ~~for~~ in the Online Bus Inventory Application may be obtained by contacting the department's Director

of the School Transportation Management Section, Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399.

(10) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 316.615, 1001.02(1), 1002.33(28), 1003.31, 1006.21, 1006.22, 1006.25(4), 1012.45 FS. Law Implemented 316.615, 1002.33(20)(c), 1003.31, 1006.22, 1006.25(4), 1012.45 FS. History—New 9-4-64, Amended 3-25-66, 1-17-72, 7-20-74, Repromulgated 12-5-74, Amended 11-24-76, 10-1-81, Formerly 6A-3.17, Amended 9-30-87, 6-26-89, 11-15-94, 8-28-95, 4-18-96, Formerly 6-3.017, Amended 6-11-00, Formerly 6-3.017, Amended 4-21-03, 11-26-08, 3-23-16, 3-22-17, 10-27-20.