



POLICY 2.3815

5-C I recommend that the Board approve development of the proposed **new** Policy 23.815, entitled "Emergency Closures."

[Contact: James P. Kelly, PX 48435.]

Development

CONSENT ITEM

- This policy establish guidelines for the closing of schools and District facilities, arising from various types of emergencies, both natural and human, that could occur while school is in session.
- In case of a hazardous or emergency condition, the Superintendent or designee is empowered to close all schools, close selected schools, delay openings of schools or the early dismissal of students in the event of hazardous or emergency conditions which threaten the health, safety or welfare of District students and personnel.

POLICY 2.3815

EMERGENCY CLOSURES

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3 1. **Purpose.** This policy establishes guidelines for the emergency closing of
4 schools and District facilities. The Board recognizes the importance of being
5 prepared for various types of emergencies, both natural and human, that could
6 occur while school is in session. This necessitates the need to develop appropriate
7 plans and procedures to deal with such emergencies at school facilities or involving
8 school transport. It is important that students, employees and parents be
9 knowledgeable about the various emergency plans and procedures and to be
10 prepared should such an emergency occur.
- 11 2. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall have
12 the meanings as set out below.
- 13 a. *Emergency* means any occurrence, or threat thereof, whether natural,
14 technological, or manmade, in war or in peace, which results or may result in
15 substantial injury or harm to the population or substantial damage to or loss of
16 property, as defined in Sec. 252.34, Fla. Stat.
- 17 b. *Disaster* means any natural, technological, or civil emergency that causes
18 damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to result in a declaration of a
19 state of emergency by a county, the Governor, or the President of the United
20 States.
- 21 c. *Manmade emergency* means an emergency caused by an action against
22 persons or society, including, but not limited to, enemy attack, sabotage,
23 terrorism, civil unrest, or other action impairing the orderly administration of
24 government.
- 25 d. *Natural emergency* means an emergency caused by a natural event,
26 including, but not limited to, a hurricane, a storm, a flood, severe wave action,
27 a drought, or an earthquake.
- 28 e. *Technological emergency* means an emergency caused by a technological
29 failure or accident, including, but not limited to, an explosion, transportation
30 accident, radiological accident, or chemical or other hazardous material
31 incident.
- 32 3. **Policy Statement.** In case of an hazardous or emergency condition, the
33 Superintendent or designee is empowered to close all schools, close selected
34 schools, delay openings of schools or the early dismissal of students in the event of
35 hazardous or emergency conditions which threaten the health, safety or welfare of

36 District students and personnel. A Principal may dismiss a school when the
37 Superintendent cannot be contacted and an extreme hazard or emergency exists
38 endangering the health, safety or welfare of students. Any such early dismissal
39 made by the Principal shall be reported immediately to the Superintendent's office
40 with a statement describing the reasons for early dismissal. Such report shall be
41 made to the Board at its next regular meeting unless a special meeting is held
42 relating to the emergency.

43 a. The Superintendent or designees in consultation with the Transportation
44 Department may alter transportation schedules as are appropriate to the
45 particular condition.

46 b. In a declared state of emergency, control of students shall be maintained by
47 school personnel until the students are released from school, or in the case of
48 transported students, until they depart from the school bus.

49 c. Parents and staff will be notified of the procedures that will be used to notify
50 them in case of an emergency closure. The School Board will be informed in
51 the event of an actual emergency closure.

52 d. The Crisis Management Plan, as provided for in Board Policy 2.38 (School
53 Crisis Planning) will provide procedures for the School District and for each
54 school site, and will be used prior to, during, or after any emergency situation.

55 4. Administrative Procedures. The Superintendent will develop administrative
56 regulations as necessary, and review and update as needed, to implement this
57 policy.

58 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Fla. Stat. § 1001.42

59 LAWS IMPLEMENTED: Fla. Stat. §§ 1001.51(6), 1012.28, 1001.54, 1013.12

60 HISTORY: __/__/2011

Legal Signoff:

The Legal Department has reviewed proposed Policy 2.3815 and finds it legally sufficient for development by the Board.

Attorney

Date