



POLICY 7.134

- 4-D** I recommend that the Board adopt the proposed revised Policy 7.134, entitled "Encouraging Large Schools to Subdivide into Schools-Within-a-School."

[Contact: Mary Vreeland, PX 47371.]

Adoption

CONSENT ITEM

- The Board approved development of this revision on April 2, 2008.
- The revision would eliminate certain portions to coincide with subsequent statutory amendments (lines 7-12 and 24-31 and section (2)). The revision would also update statutory references and some terminology.

POLICY 7.134

ENCOURAGING LARGE SCHOOLS TO
SUBDIVIDE INTO SCHOOLS-WITHIN-A-SCHOOL

1. The School Board recognizes acknowledges the Florida Legislature's determination that, to reduce the anonymity of students in large schools, the School Board shall adopt a policy that encourages the subdivision of large schools into schools-within-a-school. ~~findings that small schools can be created within existing schools without increasing administrative and construction costs, and that smaller schools may provide benefits of reduced discipline problems, truancy, and gang participation; reduced dropout rates; improved teacher and student attitudes, student self-perception, and academic achievement; and increased parental involvement.~~
2. Pursuant to Fla. Stat. § ~~235.2157(2)~~, a school on a single campus which operates as a school within a school, as defined by section (3) below, shall be considered a "small school" if each unit located on the single campus falls below the student-population limits listed in paragraphs (4)(a)-(e) of this Policy.
3. 2. The term "school-within-a-school" shall be defined as an *operational program* that uses flexible scheduling, team planning, and curricular and instructional innovation to organize groups of students with groups of teachers as smaller units, so as to functionally operate as a smaller school.
4. 3. As mandated by Fla. Stat. § ~~230.23(20)~~ §§ 1001.42(20) and 1003.02(4), the School Board hereby adopts a policy of encouraging (but not requiring) schools to subdivide into "schools-within-a-school," ~~for the 2002-2003 school year and thereafter, if such schools fall within the following categories:~~
 - a. ~~elementary schools with a student population of more than 500 students.~~
 - b. ~~middle schools with a student population of more than 700 students.~~
 - c. ~~high schools with a student population of more than 900 students.~~
 - d. ~~any school serving kindergarten through grade 8 with a student population of more than 700 students.~~
 - e. ~~any school serving kindergarten through grade 12 with a student population of more than 900.~~
5. 4. A school-within-a-school shall operate within existing resources, as required by Fla. Stat. § ~~230.23(20)~~ 1003.02(4).

- 34 6. 5. When planning for and implementing a school-within-a-school, the school
35 principal shall advise and counsel with the Area Superintendent and School
36 Advisory Council to develop a program patterned after one of the following models
37 set forth in Fla. Stat. § ~~230.23(20)~~ 1003.02(4), or a similar model:
- 38 a. An organizational arrangement assigning both student and teachers to small
39 units in which the students take some or all of their coursework with ~~efforts in~~
40 ~~this group~~ their fellow grouped students and from the teachers assigned to this
41 smaller unit. A unit may be grouped together for either one (1) year or on a
42 vertical, multiyear basis.
- 43 b. An organizational arrangement similar to that described in paragraph (5)(a),
44 with the additional variations in instruction and curriculum. The smaller unit
45 usually seeks to maintain a program different from that of the larger school, or
46 of other smaller units. It may be vertically organized, but is dependent upon
47 the school principal for its existence, budget, and staff. The District's career-
48 education ~~centers~~ programs and career academies may be an ~~examples~~ of
49 this model.
- 50 c. A separate and autonomous smaller unit formally authorized by the school
51 board or superintendent. The smaller unit plans and runs its own program,
52 has its own staff and students, and receives its own separate budget. The
53 smaller unit must negotiate the use of common space with the larger school
54 and defer to the building principal on matters of safety and building operation
- 55 7. 6. Unless otherwise specifically authorized by the School Board, when a school-
56 within-a-school is created, the school principal shall maintain oversight of all
57 portions of the school site, consistent with School Board Policy 1.014 and Fla. Stat.
58 ~~§ 231.085~~ §§ 1012.28 and 1001.54, although the immediate supervision of the
59 smaller unit may be delegated to another administrator.
- 60 8. 7. The establishment of a school-within-a-school will be carried out consistent with
61 Article IX of the Classroom Teachers Association Collective Bargaining Agreement,
62 or other applicable collective bargaining Agreement, if said Article or Agreements
63 are deemed applicable.

64 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Fla. Stat. §§ ~~230.22(2); 230.23(22)~~ 1001.32(2); 1001.41(1)
65 & (2); 1001.42 (20) & (23).

66 LAWS IMPLEMENTED: Fla. Stat. §§ ~~230.23(17), (20); 235.2157~~ 1001.42 (17) & (20);
67 1003.02 (4); 1003.493.

68 HISTORY: 8/5/02: / /08
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Legal Signoff:

The Legal Department has reviewed proposed Policy 7.134 and finds it legally sufficient for adoption by the Board.

Attorney

Date