



**POLICY 7.134**

**5-E** I recommend that the Board approve development of the proposed revised Policy 7.134, entitled "Encouraging Large Schools to Subdivide into Schools-Within-a-School."

[Contact: Mary Vreeland, PX 47371.]

**Development**

**CONSENT ITEM**

- 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

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4 1. The School Board recognizes acknowledges the Florida Legislature's  
5 determination that, to reduce the anonymity of students in large schools, the  
6 School Board shall adopt a policy that encourages the subdivision of large schools  
7 into schools-within-a-school. ~~findings that small schools can be created within~~  
8 ~~existing schools without increasing administrative and construction costs, and that~~  
9 ~~smaller schools may provide benefits of reduced discipline problems, truancy, and~~  
10 ~~gang participation; reduced dropout rates; improved teacher and student attitudes,~~  
11 ~~student self-perception, and academic achievement; and increased parental~~  
12 ~~involvement.~~
- 13 2. Pursuant to Fla. Stat. ~~§ 235.2157(2)~~, a school on a single campus which operates  
14 ~~as a school-within-a-school, as defined by section (3) below, shall be considered a~~  
15 ~~“small school” if each unit located on the single campus falls below the student-~~  
16 ~~population limits listed in paragraphs (4)(a)-(e) of this Policy.~~
- 17 3. 2. The term “school-within-a-school” shall be defined as an *operational program*  
18 that uses flexible scheduling, team planning, and curricular and instructional  
19 innovation to organize groups of students with groups of teachers as smaller units,  
20 so as to functionally operate as a smaller school.
- 21 4. 3. As mandated by Fla. Stat. ~~§ 230.23(20)~~ §§ 1001.42(20) and 1003.02(4), the  
22 School Board hereby adopts a policy of encouraging (but not requiring) schools to  
23 subdivide into “schools-within-a-school.” ~~for the 2002-2003 school year and~~  
24 ~~thereafter, if such schools fall within the following categories:~~
  - 25 a. ~~elementary schools with a student population of more than 500 students.~~
  - 26 b. ~~middle schools with a student population of more than 700 students.~~
  - 27 c. ~~high schools with a student population of more than 900 students.~~
  - 28 d. ~~any school serving kindergarten through grade 8 with a student population of~~  
29 ~~more than 700 students.~~
  - 30 e. ~~any school serving kindergarten through grade 12 with a student population of~~  
31 ~~more than 900.~~
- 32 5. 4. A school-within-a-school shall operate within existing resources, as required by  
33 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 ~~cohorts 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 ~~example~~ s 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 development by the Board.

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Attorney

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Date