

**POLICY 7.134**

**5-G** I recommend the Board approve the proposed new Policy 7.134, to be entitled "Encouraging Large Schools to Subdivide into Schools-Within-a-School."

[Contact: Dr. Joseph Orr, 649-6888]

, Development

- Florida Statutes § 230.23(20) mandates that the Board must adopt a Policy *encouraging* (but not necessarily requiring) large schools to subdivide into a "school-within-a-school" operational program for the 2002-03 school year and thereafter. The statute limits these programs to be operated *within existing resources*.

CONSENT ITEM

PROPOSED NEW POLICY 7.134

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

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5 1. The School Board recognizes the Florida Legislature's findings that smaller schools  
6 can be created within existing schools without increasing administrative and  
7 construction costs, and that smaller schools may provide benefits of reduced  
8 discipline problems, truancy, and gang participation; reduced dropout rates; improved  
9 teacher and student attitudes, student self-perception, and academic achievement; and  
10 increased parental involvement.
  
- 11 2. Pursuant to § 235.2157(2), a school on a single campus which operates as a school-  
12 within-a-school, as defined by section (3) below, shall be considered a small school if  
13 each unit located on the single campus meets the standards of this Policy.
  
- 14 3. The term "school-within-a-school" shall be defined as an *operational program* that  
15 uses flexible scheduling, team planning, and curricular and instructional innovation to  
16 organize groups of students with groups of teachers as smaller units, so as to  
17 functionally operate as a smaller school.
  
- 18 4. As mandated by § 230.23(20), the School Board hereby adopts a policy of  
19 encouraging (but **not** requiring) schools to subdivide into "schools-within-a-school" for  
20 the 2002-03 school year and thereafter, if such schools fall within the following  
21 categories:
  - 22 a. elementary schools with a student population of more than 500 students.
  - 23 b. middle schools with a student population of more than 700 students.
  - 24 c. high schools with a student population of more than 900 students.
  - 25 d. any school serving kindergarten through grade 8 with a student population of  
26 more than 700 students.
  - 27 e. any school serving kindergarten through grade 12 with a student population of  
28 more than 900.
  
- 29 5. A school-within-a-school shall operate within **existing resources**, as required by §  
30 230.23(20), Fla. Stat.

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

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59 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: §§ 230.22(2); 230.23(22), Fla. Stat.

60 LAWS IMPLEMENTED: §§ 230.23(17), (20); 235.2157, Fla. Stat.

61 HISTORY: / /02

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