NEOLA POLICIES - PACKET 1

REVISED POLICIES VOLUME 27, NO. 1, JUNE 2026

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VOL. 27, NO. 1, JUNE 2026

po0122.1

Revised Bylaw - Vol. 27, No. 1, June 2026 - MEMBER POWERS

ADOPTED Apr 12, 2016

0122.1 - **MEMBER POWERS**

Governing Board members as individuals do not separately possess the powers that reside in the Board. Board members shall have authority only when acting as a Board legally in session. A Board member has the right to comment publicly during or outside of a Board meeting on any matter of Board business, except for student and employee disciplinary hearings that are specifically addressed in F.S. 1006.07 and 1012.34, respectively, or other matters prohibited by law.

~~The~~ Notwithstanding the Board members' right to comment publicly on matters related to Board business, the Board shall not be bound in any way by any statement or action on the part of any individual Board member, except when such statement or action is pursuant to specific official instructions of the Board.

F.S. 1001.366

Revised Bylaw - Vol. 27, No. 1, June 2026 - TRAVEL AND EXPENSES

ADOPTED Feb 3, 2021 REVISED Apr 14, 2026

0147.1 - **TRAVEL AND EXPENSES**

Members of the Governing Board have a duty to promote the best interests of the CCCCSA and ~~are expected~~ may to engage in ~~meaningful~~ professional learning to ~~enhance their leadership abilities and~~ fulfill their responsibilities. In doing so, members of the Board may need to travel from time-to-time in the county, out of the county, and/or out of the State.

Members of the Board seeking reimbursement for travel must utilize CCCCSA-approved forms.

In-County Travel

Travel on official business performed within Lee County by members of the Board shall not be reimbursed.

Out-of-County Travel (Within the State of Florida)

Expenditures for travel outside the CCCCSA or for cellular phones, cellular phone service, personal digital assistants, or any other mobile wireless communication device or service, including text messaging, whether through purchasing, leasing, contracting, or any other method, are not permitted.

If a financial condition does not exist, when approved in advance, expenses for out-of-county travel for members of the Board members shall be paid at the rate allowed by State law. Copies of receipts for lodging, transportation, tolls, registration fees, and parking must be attached to the traveler's request for reimbursement.

Travel outside the county that exceeds $500.00 requires prior approval by the Board to confirm that such travel is for official business of the CCCCSA and complies with rules of the State Board of Education.

Out-of-State Travel

Expenditures for travel outside the State or for cellular phones, cellular phone service, personal digital assistants, or any other mobile wireless communication device or service, including text messaging, whether through purchasing, leasing, contracting, or any other method, are not permitted if any of the financial conditions outlined in F.S. 1011.051, and as set forth in Policy 6233, exist.

If such a financial condition does not exist, ~~when approved in advance~~ and the threshold of $500.00 for prior approval will not be met, expenses for out-of-State travel for members of the Board shall be paid at the rate allowed by State law.

Any request by a member of the Board member to travel outside of Florida must include an itemized list detailing all anticipated travel expenses including, but not limited to, the anticipated costs of all means of travel, lodging, and subsistence. The public shall have an opportunity to speak on any member of the Board specific travel agenda item prior to the Board taking action on whether to approve or deny the travel request.

Any out-of-state travel that exceeds $500.00 requires prior approval by the Board to confirm that such travel is for official business of the CCCCSA ~~District~~ and complies with rules of the State Board of Education.

Travel Costs Paid or Reimbursed from Federal Funds

Travel payment and reimbursement provided from Federal funds must be authorized in advance and must be reasonable and consistent with the CCCCSA's travel policy and administrative guidelines. For travel paid for with Federal funds, the travel authorization must include documentation that demonstrates that (1) the participation in the event by the individual traveling is necessary to the Federal award; and (2) the costs are reasonable and consistent with the CCCCSA's travel policy.

Commercial airfare costs in excess of the basic least expensive unrestricted accommodations class offered by commercial airlines are unallowable except when such accommodations would (1) require circuitous routing; (2) require travel during unreasonable hours; (3) excessively prolong travel; (4) result in additional costs that would offset the transportation savings; or (5) offer accommodations not reasonably adequate for the traveler's medical needs. Instances of commercial airfare cost in excess of the basic least expensive unrestricted accommodations class must be justified and documented on a case-by-case basis.

To the extent that the CCCCSA's policy does not establish the allowability of a particular type of travel cost, the rates, and amounts established under 5 U.S.C. 5701-11, ('Travel and Subsistence Expenses; Mileage Allowances') must apply to travel under Federal awards.

Participation in Virtual Trainings and Conferences

Similar to in-person trainings and conferences, participation by a Board member in a virtual training or conference is defined as official business performed as part of a Board member's duties when all of the following apply:

A. The main purpose of the virtual training or conference is in connection with the official business of the District and directly related to the performance of the statutory duties and responsibilities of the Board member participating.

B. The virtual training or conference provides a direct educational or other benefit supporting the work and public purpose of the participating Board member.

C. The duties and responsibilities of the participating Board member are compatible with the objectives of the virtual training or conference.

Any request by a member of the Board to participate in a virtual training or conference must include an itemized list detailing all anticipated expenses including, but not limited to, the anticipated costs of registration and meeting materials.

Expenses for participation in virtual trainings and conferences that exceeds $500 requires prior approval by the Board to confirm that such participation is for official business of the District and complies with rules of the State Board of Education.

If a financial condition pursuant to F.S. 1011.051 does not exist, when approved in advance, expenses for participation in a virtual training or conference for members of the Board shall be reimbursed at the rate allowed by State law.

Revised 3/9/21
Revised 8/15/23
Revised 4/14/26

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Legal
F.S. 112.061
F.S. 1001.39
F.S. 1011.051
F.A.C. 6A-1.056
2 C.F.R. 200.474

Revised Bylaw - Vol. 27, No. 1, June 2026 - PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF MEMBERS

Revised Bylaw - Vol. 27, No. 1 - Version #1

DRAFTING NOTE - This bylaw incorporates the District School Board Members' Bill of Rights; specifically, the provisions of F.S. 1001.366(4). Additionally, based on the language "except for ... other matters prohibited by," we believe it is incumbent on Board members to communicate with the Board's legal counsel regarding any Sunshine Law implications. Although not legal advice, Neola is of the position that "except for...other matters prohibited by law" implicates the Sunshine Law and therefore prohibits Board members from discussing with each other any matter which foreseeably will come before the Board." Stated differently, F.S. 1001.366(4) does not override the requirements and prohibitions in Florida's Sunshine Law.]

0149.1V1 - **PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF MEMBERS**

The School Board Chairman shall function as the official spokesperson for the Board.

~~From time-to-time, however, individual~~ Board members may make public statements outside of Board meetings on ~~school matters to local media and/or to local or State officials~~ any Board business, except for student and employee disciplinary hearings that are specifically addressed in F.S. 1006.07 and F.S. 1012.34 or other matters prohibited by law.

Sometimes the statements or letters may imply, or the readers (listeners) infer, that the opinions expressed or statements made are the official positions of the Board. The misunderstandings that can result from these incidents can embarrass both the member and the Board. Therefore, Board members should, when writing or speaking on school matters to the media, legislators, and other officials, make it clear that their views do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board or of their colleagues on the Board.

Under no circumstances shall Board members use e-mail to discuss among themselves Board business that is only to be discussed in an open meeting of the Board, is part of an executive session, or could be considered an invasion of privacy if the message were to be monitored by another party.

There should be no expectation of privacy for any messages sent by e-mail. Messages that have been deleted are still accessible on the hard drive, if the space has not been occupied by other messages. Messages, deleted or otherwise, are subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act unless an exemption would apply.

F.S. 1001.366

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Legal
F.S. 1001.366

Revised Bylaw - Vol. 27, No. 1, June 2026 - BOARD-STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

ADOPTED Apr 12, 2016

0149.3 - **BOARD-STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

[DRAFTING NOTE - This bylaw incorporates the District School Board Members' Bill of Rights; specifically, the provisions of F.S. 1001.366 (2).]

The Governing Board is a policy making body and its individual members do not have authority to direct the day-to-day operations of the Authority or its employees. Nevertheless, the Board believes that open channels of communication between itself and the staff will benefit the Authority. The preferred line of official Authority communication should, however, be through the superintendent.

A. Staff Communications to the Board

All communications regarding official business of the Authority from staff members to the Board should be preferably submitted through the superintendent. The superintendent shall forward such communications received from staff members to the Board no later than seven (7) days following receipt.

If a staff member chooses to communicate directly with the Board regarding Authority business, then that communication should be sent to all members of the Board and the superintendent should be copied as well.

This communication protocol is not intended to deny any staff member their ~~his/her~~ constitutional right of free speech or the right to appeal to or otherwise address the Board on important matters through established procedures.

B. Board Communications to Staff

All official communications, policies, and directives of the Board of staff interest and concern to the staff ~~will~~ should generally be communicated through the Superintendent, who shall also keep staff members informed of the Board's concerns and actions. A Board member may consult with the District's chief financial officer on general matters related to the budget and sources and uses of District funds, and have reasonable access, upon the Board member's request, to

any detail or line item in any proposed or approved budget or in any financial transaction by the District.

C. Social Interaction

Both staff and Board members share an interest in the schools and in education generally, and it is to be expected that when they interact at social affairs and other functions, they will informally discuss such matters as educational trends, issues, and innovations, and general activities of the Authority. However, since Board members are not authorized to act on behalf of the Board unless in open public session or when specifically vested with such authority, Board members and members of the staff should not discuss individual personalities, personnel grievances, or other complaints. Instead, such matters should be addressed in accordance with the procedures established in Board policy.

D. F.S. 1001.366

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VOL. 27, NO. 1, JUNE 2026

po0168

Revised Bylaw - Vol. 27, No. 1, June 2026 - MINUTES

ADOPTED Apr 12, 2016

0168 - **MINUTES**

The Superintendent shall act as secretary and shall cause to be kept official minutes of all meetings of the Board. The minutes shall include the time and place of the meeting, the members present, and the subjects considered. The minutes shall also include a summary of the deliberations sufficient for the public to understand the basis for the Governing Board's actions, the actions taken, the vote of each member on roll-call votes, and any other information required to be shown in the minutes by law. The minutes shall be available to the public. All attachments for agenda items considered at the Board meeting, such as vendor contracts or budget documents, must be kept as a public record with the minutes of each meeting.

The minutes of Board meetings shall usually be considered at the next regular meeting where they shall be corrected, if necessary, and approved.

Recordings shall be made of each meeting of the Board as an administrative aid and shall be preserved as public documents of the Board as required by State statute.

The approved minutes shall be filed in the City of Cape Coral clerk's office as a permanent record of official Board proceedings.

Legal
F.S. 1001.42

Revised Policy - Vol. 27, No. 1, June 2026 - EMPLOYMENT OF ADMINISTRATORS

ADOPTED Apr 12, 2016 REVISED Mar 10, 2026

1120 - **EMPLOYMENT OF ADMINISTRATORS**

The Governing Board recognizes that it is vital to the successful operation of the Authority that administrative positions created by the Board be filled with highly qualified and competent personnel.

The Board shall approve the employment, determine the compensation, and establish the term of employment for each administrator employed by the Board. Approval shall be given only to those candidates for employment recommended by the Superintendent. Administrators shall recommend to the Superintendent the best-qualified administrative applicant available.

Administrators are individuals who supervise the resources, operations, and management of school(s) and/or department(s) and meet established qualifications.

Any administrative staff member's misstatement of fact material to qualifications for employment or the determination of salary shall be considered to constitute grounds for dismissal.

A candidate shall be disqualified from employment in any administrative position that requires direct contact with students if the candidate is ineligible for such employment under F.S. 1012.315.

A person is ineligible for educator certification or employment in any position that requires direct contact with students if:

A. they are on the disqualification list maintained by the Florida Department of Education under F.S. 1001.10(4)(b);

B. they are registered as a sex offender as described in 42 U.S.C. 9858f(c)(1)(C);

C. they are ineligible based on a security background investigation under F.S. 435.04;

The Agency for Health Care Administration shall determine the eligibility of

employees in any position that requires direct contact with students in an Authority school.

D. they would be eligible for an exemption under F.S. 435.07(4)(c); or

E. they have been convicted or found guilty of, or have had adjudication withheld for, or have pled guilty or nolo contendere to (1) any criminal act in another state or under Federal ~~federal~~ law which, if committed in Florida, constitutes a disqualifying offense under F.S. 435.04(2) or (2) any delinquent act committed in Florida or any delinquent or criminal act committed in another state or under Federal law which, if committed in Florida, qualifies an individual for inclusion on the Registered Juvenile Sex Offender List under F.S. 943.0435.

Individuals who apply for employment are governed by the law and rules in effect at the time of application for employment, provided that continuity of employment is maintained.

To be eligible for employment in an administrative position requiring certification, an individual must be of good moral character and hold a valid certificate issued pursuant to Florida law and the rules of the State Board of Education. A copy of the certificate shall be filed with the Authority.

In addition, the Board shall allow an individual with a temporary certificate in educational leadership to be eligible for administrative positions for which State certification in educational leadership is required. Pursuant to State law and rules adopted by the State Board of Education, an individual must earn a passing score on the Florida Educational Leadership Examination, document three (3) years of successful experience in an executive management or leadership position, and hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher learning to qualify for a temporary certificate in educational leadership. A person who is employed under a temporary certificate in educational leadership must be under the mentorship of a State-certificated school administrator during the term of the temporary certificate.

~~Pursuant to State law and rules adopted by the State Board of Education, an individual must earn a passing score on the Florida Educational Leadership Examination, document three (3) years of successful teaching experience.~~

The Superintendent shall also conduct employment history checks of all candidates for administrative positions. The employment history check shall include, but not be limited to, contacting any previous employer and screening the candidate through the use of the screening tools described in State law. If contact with (a) previous employer(s) cannot be made, the Superintendent shall document the efforts made to do so.

F.S. 1012.33 states that "the first ninety-seven (97) days of an initial principal's or supervisor's contract is a probationary period. During the probationary period, the

employee may be dismissed without cause or may resign from the contractual position without breach of contract." This statement means that individuals who are appointed into their initial administrative positions in the State of Florida will have a ninety-seven (97) day probationary period.

All administrators shall become familiar with the policies of the Board and other policies, regulations, memoranda, bulletins, and handbooks that pertain to their duties in the Authority. Any administrator employed by the Board who shall be guilty of any willful violation of the policies of the Board shall be guilty of gross insubordination and shall be subject to dismissal or other lesser penalty as the Board may prescribe.

Members of the administrative staff are required to have listed telephones at their residences. The regulation includes principals and assistant principals. This requirement may be waived by the Superintendent for a period not to exceed six (6) months, subject to review and extension at the end of the six (6) month period if justification for the waiver still exists.

[DRAFTING NOTE: SB 538 (2026) amended F.S. 1006.15 to include a new definition for "extra-curricular." The term "extra-curricular" means "any school-authorized or education-related activity occurring during or outside the regular instructional school day." This definition should be considered by the District if it seeks to employ one (1) or more "extra-curricular activities administrators" as referenced below.]

Administrative personnel may include an "extra-curricular activities administrator". This classification includes any athletic director or coach or any activity director or sponsor specified by the Superintendent at the request of the individual. The Superintendent may negotiate individual compensation in excess of compensation otherwise awardable pursuant to F.S. 1012.22. Such compensation may not exceed the compensation of the highest paid administrator in the District. Any negotiated compensation must be approved by the Board. **[Drafting Note: the last sentence in this paragraph is not contained in the revisions to F.S. 1012.01 regarding "extra-curricular activities administrators". While the statute permits the Superintendent to negotiate compensation with such individuals, it does not alter the Board's responsibility to provide for the appointment and compensation of employees.]**

General Knowledge Examination Assistance

Any employee who does not achieve a passing score on any subtest of the general knowledge examination will be provided information regarding the availability of State-level and District-level supports and instruction to assist him/her in achieving a passing score. Such information will include, but is not limited to, State-level test information guides, School District preparation resources, and preparation courses offered by State universities and Florida college system institutions.

Nondisclosure or Confidentiality Agreements

Employees shall not be required or otherwise incentivized to sign a nondisclosure or confidentiality agreement, and the District shall not impose conditions on employment to circumvent this prohibition.

Revised 3/9/21
Revised 12/14/21
Revised 11/18/22
Revised 5/7/24
Revised 3/10/26

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Legal
F.S. 1001.10
F.S. 1012.01

F.S. 1012.22
F.S. 1012.23
F.S. 1012.315
F.S. 1012.32
F.S. 1012.33
F.S. 1012.55
F.S. 1012.56
42 U.S.C. 9858f

Revised Policy - Vol. 27, No. 1, June 2026 - APPOINTMENT, ASSIGNMENT, TRANSFER, AND PROMOTION OF ADMINISTRATORS

ADOPTED Apr 12, 2016 REVISED Feb 9, 2021

1130 - **APPOINTMENT, ASSIGNMENT, TRANSFER, AND PROMOTION OF ADMINISTRATORS**

The Governing Board believes that the appropriate placement of qualified and competent staff is essential to the success of the Authority.

Appointment and Assignment

The Superintendent shall submit written recommendations with regard to the appointment and assignment of administrators for Board action.

The Board shall act not later than three (3) weeks following the receipt of ~~FSA~~ State mandated testing scores and data, including school grades, or June 30th, whichever is later, on the Superintendent's nominations of supervisors, principals, and members of the instructional staff.

In accordance with State law, the Board may reject the Superintendent's recommendations for initial appointment and assignment, or re-appointment and assignment, for good cause.

It is only for the purposes of initial appointment and assignment and re-appointment and assignment, that the term "good cause" means the Board has determined any of the following: that the nominated employee fabricated or materially exaggerated their credentials or background; that the nominated employee does not meet the minimum requirements for the position; or that the nominated employee's educator certificate has been revoked by another state.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to temporarily reassign employees when the Superintendent determines that it is in the employee's and/or School Authority's ~~District's~~ best interest(s~~).~~

[x] The Superintendent shall seek Board approval for any temporary reassignment that will exceed fifteen (15) school days. **[END OF OPTION]**

[NOTE: NEOLA recommends that the Board select fifteen (15) school days or less under this option to prevent "temporary" reassignments from arguably becoming permanent or "long-term" reassignments.

Promotion and Transfer

Pursuant to State law, the Superintendent's primary consideration in recommending an individual for promotion must be the individual's demonstrated effectiveness pursuant to F.S. 1012.34.

When need be, the Superintendent shall submit written recommendations with regard to the promotion or transfer of administrative staff for Board action.

In accordance with State law, the Board may reject the Superintendent's recommendation for the transfer or promotion of an administrative staff member for good cause.

Required Reporting

The Superintendent must annually notify the parent of any student who is assigned to a school with an administrator having two (2) consecutive annual performance evaluation ratings of unsatisfactory, two (2) annual performance evaluation ratings of unsatisfactory within a three (3) year period, or three (3) consecutive annual performance evaluation ratings of needs improvement or a combination of needs improvement and unsatisfactory. The Superintendent shall also comply with all other reporting requirements set forth in State law.

Duties, Days, and Hours

The Superintendent shall communicate the duties, days, and hours of the various classifications of administrators.

A. Administrative staff shall perform the duties required by Florida statutes and Board policy, as well as all other generally accepted administrative duties such as supervision of bus loading zones, chaperoning students, and other reasonable duties as may be assigned by the administrator's immediate supervisor. Failure to perform such duties in an acceptable manner shall constitute a violation of an administrator's contract and just cause for disciplinary action.

B. Administrative staff are responsible for student control and supervision at any location on campus or during school-sponsored activities.

C. Administrators shall not permit their family or friends by their presence to interfere with performance of their duties during working hours.

Employment and Supervision of Relatives (Nepotism)

For purposes of this policy, a "relative" is an individual included within the definition of "relative" set forth in F.S. 112.3135, which includes the following individuals: father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, or half-sister.

Neither the superintendent nor a Board member may appoint or employ a relative to work under their direct supervision.

These limitations do not apply to employees appointed or employed before the election or appointment of the superintendent or a Board member.

Two (2) or more relatives shall not work in the same school/department except by permission of the Superintendent. In the event that an administrator, due to some unusual circumstance, may have been placed in the same school/department with a relative, the administrator may continue in the position until reassigned to a position of comparable grade, pay, and reasonable personal convenience.

A. Relatives may be employed in the same school/department when specifically recommended by the administrator and approved by the Superintendent on the grounds that it is to the advantage of the Authority.

B. Under no circumstances shall a person supervise the work of a relative.

Revised 8/14/18
Revised 2/9/21

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F.S. 112.3135
F.S. 1001.32
F.S. 1012.22
F.S. 1012.23
F.S. 1012.2315
F.S. 1012.27
F.S. 1012.28
F.S. 1012.34
F.S. 1012.795
F.S. 1012.796

Revised Policy - Vol. 27, No. 1, June 2026 - WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

ADOPTED Apr 12, 2016 REVISED Apr 14, 2026

1211 - **WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION**

The Governing Board expects all its employees to be honest and ethical in their conduct, and to comply with applicable State and Federal law, Board policies and administrative procedures. ~~Pursuant to State law, the Board expects~~ ~~administrative~~ Administrative staff members must ~~to~~ report in a signed, written report, the following to the Superintendent:

A. any violation or suspected violation of any Federal, State or local law, policy, or regulation committed by any employee, or agent of an agency or independent contractor which is doing business with the Board, which creates and presents a substantial or specific danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare; and

B. ~~to their immediate supervisors. Additionally, pursuant to State law, administrative staff members are expected to repor~~ t any act or suspected act of gross mismanagement, malfeasance, misfeasance, gross waste of public funds, suspected or actual Medicaid fraud or abuse, or gross neglect of duty committed by an employee or agent of an agency or independent contractor which is doing business with the Board.

~~It is the responsibility of an employee who is aware of conduct on the part of any Board member or employee that possibly violates Federal or State law, or Board policy, to call this conduct to the attention of their immediate supervisor. If the employee's immediate supervisor is not responsive or is the employee whose behavior is in question, the employee should report the alleged misconduct to the Superintendent.~~

~~After such a report is made, the immediate supervisor will ask that the employee's report be put in writing.~~

Any employee making such a report in a signed, written report shall not be ~~protected from~~ subjected to dismissal, discipline, ~~retaliation, or reprisal for~~ or any other adverse personnel action as defined in F.S. 112.3187 for making such report ~~as long as the employee made a reasonable and good faith effort to determine the accuracy of any information reported and such reports meets the requirements of the Florida's Whistleblower's Act.uu~~ , unless the employee knows the information to be false.

Employees are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, for purposely, knowingly, or recklessly making a false report under this policy. Conversely, employees may be ~~are~~ subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, if they are aware of a violation of Federal, State, or local law that the Board has the authority to correct and they do not make a signed written report to the Superintendent ~~report confirmed in writing to their immediate supervisor~~.

If the alleged misconduct that is reported involves a Board member or the Superintendent, the signed, written report is to be filed directly with the Board Attorney who is hereby authorized to engage outside counsel to conduct the investigation concerning the alleged misconduct.

Upon receipt of a legally sufficient report made by an administrative staff member pursuant to this policy, an investigation shall be conducted by the Superintendent or Board Attorney ~~consistent with the procedures described in F.S. 112.3189.~~

Revised 4/14/26

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Legal
F.S. 112.3187
F.S. 112.3189

Revised Policy - Vol. 27, No. 1, June 2026 - PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION

ADOPTED Mar 9, 2021 REVISED Mar 10, 2026

2215 - **PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION**

The CCCCSA's program of instruction shall provide all courses required for middle grades promotion, high school graduation, and appropriate instruction designed to ensure that students meet State Board of Education adopted standards in the following subject areas: reading and other language arts, mathematics, science, computer science and technology, social studies, foreign languages, health and physical education, and the arts.

Development of Program of Instruction

A program of instruction shall be developed and implemented by the Superintendent as follows:

A. Elementary School

The primary purpose of the elementary school shall be to serve each individual student by promoting opportunities for optimum learning development. The program of instruction in the elementary school shall promote the language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, health and physical education, music, art, and other disciplines as shall be considered necessary to a well-rounded elementary school program. A procedure shall be established by which schools may recommend for approval courses or programs to meet the unique needs of students. Each subject field shall, insofar as practicable, embrace in the materials used and in the teaching procedures employed, instruction in study and work habits, career awareness, library usage, safety, thrift, conservation, health and hygiene, citizenship, the establishment of purpose, and the development of character and morality. Provision shall be made for the inculcation of ideals of group and individual behavior; to this end, organized play, intramural sports and games, hobby groups, and other organized student activities shall be fostered.

B. Middle School

The primary purpose of the middle school shall be to promote an expanded educational experience to meet the needs of the students in the seventh and eighth

grades of school. The CCCCSA program of studies and services adopted by the CCCCSA shall determine the specific offerings. An approval process shall be established by which schools may recommend courses or programs to meet the unique needs of students. Activities which offer desirable experience, such as band (or music), dance, visual arts, drama, creative writing, athletics, and student government, etc., shall be promoted.

C. Senior High School

The primary purpose of the senior high school shall be to promote education which fits the needs of all students. Courses shall be offered at a level which will challenge students to perform to their capacity. The CCCCSA shall determine the specific offerings. Library and counseling services shall be provided to enable educational objectives to be met. Student government, publications, drama, music, visual arts, a broad program of athletics, and social activities, etc., shall be promoted for the development of well-rounded citizens.

D. Instruction in Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity

Classroom instruction by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur in kindergarten through grade 8 except when required by F.S. 1003.42 and F.S. 1003.46. If such instruction is provided in grades 9 through 12, the instruction must be age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students, in accordance with State standards.

Required Instruction

Instructional staff members, subject to Governing Board policy and State Board of Education rules, shall teach efficiently and faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the highest standards of professionalism and historic accuracy, following the prescribed courses of study, and employ approved methods of instruction, the following:

A. The history and content of the Declaration of Independence, including national sovereignty, natural law, self-evident truth, equality of all persons, limited government, popular sovereignty, and inalienable rights of life, liberty, and property, and how they form the philosophical foundation of our government.

B. The history, meaning, significance, and effect of the provisions of the Constitution of the United States and amendments thereto, with emphasis on each of the ten (10) amendments that make up the Bill of Rights and how the Constitution provides the structure of our government.

C. The arguments in support of adopting our republican form of government as they are embodied in the most important of the Federalist Papers.

D. Flag education, including proper flag display and flag salute.

E. The elements of civil government, including the primary functions of and interrelationships between the Federal government, the State, and its counties, municipalities, school districts, and special districts.

F. The history of the United States, including the period of discovery, early colonies, the War for Independence, the Civil War, the expansion of the United States to its present boundaries, the world wars, and the civil rights movement to the present. American history shall be viewed as factual, not as constructed, shall be viewed as knowable, teachable, and testable, and shall be defined as the creation of a new nation based largely on the universal principles stated in the Declaration of Independence.

G. The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance of diversity in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting democratic values and institutions, including the policy, definition, and historical and current examples of anti-Semitism, as described in F.S. 1000.05(8), and the prevention of anti-Semitism.

The Superintendent will annually certify and provide evidence to the Florida Department of Education, in a manner prescribed by the Department, that the requirements of this paragraph have been met.

H. The history of African Americans, including the history of African peoples before the political conflicts that led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the enslavement experience, abolition, and the history and contributions of Americans of the African diaspora to society. Instructional materials shall include the contributions of African Americans to American society. Students shall develop an understanding of the ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping on individual freedoms, and examine what it means to be a responsible and respectful person, for the purpose of encouraging tolerance of diversity in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting democratic values and institutions. Instruction shall include the roles and contributions of individuals from all walks of life and their endeavors to learn and thrive throughout history as artists, scientists, educators, business people, influential thinkers, members of the faith community, and political and governmental leaders and the courageous steps they took to fulfill the promise of democracy and unite the nation. Instructional materials shall include the vital contributions of African Americans to build and strengthen American society and celebrate the inspirational stories of African Americans who prospered, even in the most difficult circumstances. Instructional personnel may facilitate

discussions and use curricula to address, in an age-appropriate manner, how the individual freedoms of persons have been infringed by slavery, racial oppression, racial segregation, and racial discrimination, as well as topics relating to the enactment and enforcement of laws resulting in racial oppression, racial segregation, and racial discrimination and how recognition of these freedoms has overturned these unjust laws. However, classroom instruction and curriculum may not be used to indoctrinate or persuade students to a particular point of view inconsistent with the principles enumerated in F.S. 1003.42 or the State academic standards.

I. The history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, including the history of Japanese internment camps and the incarceration of Japanese-Americans during World War II; the immigration, citizenship, civil rights, identity, and culture of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to American society. Instructional materials shall include the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to American society.

J. The elementary principles of agriculture.

K. The true effects of all alcoholic and intoxicating liquors and beverages and narcotics upon the human body and mind.

L. Kindness to animals.

M. The history of the State.

N. The conservation of natural resources.

O. Comprehensive age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate K-12 instruction on:

1. health education that addresses concepts of community health, consumer health, environmental health, and family life, including:

a. injury prevention and safety;

b. Internet safety;

c. nutrition;

d. personal health;

e. prevention and control of disease;

f. substance use and abuse; and

g. prevention of child sexual abuse, exploitation, and human trafficking.

2. For students in grades 7 through 12, teen dating violence and abuse. This component must include, but not be limited to, the definition of dating violence and abuse, the warning signs of dating violence and abusive behavior, the characteristics of healthy relationships, measures to prevent and stop dating violence and abuse, and community resources available to victims of dating violence and abuse.

3. For students in grades 6 through 12, awareness of the benefits of sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the consequences of teenage pregnancy.

4. Life skills that build confidence, support mental and emotional health, and enable students to overcome challenges, including:

    a. self-awareness and self-management;

    b. responsible decision-making;

    c. resiliency;

    d. relationship skills and conflict resolution;

    e. understanding and respecting other viewpoints and backgrounds; and

    f. for grades 9 through 12, developing leadership skills, interpersonal skills, organizational skills, and research skills; creating a resume, including a digital resume; exploring career pathways; using State career planning resources; developing and practicing the skills necessary for employment interviews; workplace ethics and workplace law; managing stress and expectations; and self-motivation.

    Health education and life skills instruction and materials will not contradict the principles enumerated in F.S. 1003.42.

    The health education curriculum will include basic training in first aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), once in middle school in a physical education or health class and once in high school in a physical education or health class. Instruction in the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation must allow students to practice the psychomotor skills associated with performing cardiopulmonary

resuscitation and include the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED).

See also Board Policy 2280 and Policy 2417.

P. Personal financial literacy and money management.

Each student must earn one-half (1/2) credit. Instruction must include discussion or instruction in all of the following: types of bank accounts offered, opening and managing a bank account, and assessing the quality of a depository institution's services; balancing a checkbook; basic principles of money management, such as spending, credit, credit scores, and managing debt, including retail and credit card debt; completing a loan application; receiving an inheritance and related implications; basic principles of personal insurance policies; computing Federal income taxes; local tax assessments; computing interest rates by various mechanisms; simple contracts; contesting an incorrect billing statement; types of savings and investments; State and Federal laws concerning finance; and, costs of postsecondary education, including cost of attendance, completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), scholarships and grants, and student loans.

Q. Such additional materials, subjects, courses, or fields in such grades as are prescribed by law or by rules of the State Board of Education and the Board in fulfilling the requirements of law.

R. The study of Hispanic contributions to the United States.

S. The study of women contributions to the United States.

T. The nature and importance of free enterprise to the United States economy.

U. Civic and character education on the qualities and responsibilities of patriotism and citizenship, including kindness, respect for authority, life, liberty, personal property, honesty, charity, racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance and cooperation. Additionally, for grades 11 and 12, the education shall include the topic of voting using the uniform primary and general election ballot described in F.S. 101.151. An integrated civic education curricula shall meet the requirements of F.S. 1003.44(6)(a).

V. In order to encourage patriotism, the sacrifices that veterans and Medal of Honor recipients have made in serving our country and protecting democratic values worldwide. Such instruction must occur on or before Medal of Honor Day, Veterans' Day, and Memorial Day. Members of the instructional staff are encouraged to use the assistance of local veterans and Medal of Honor recipients when practicable.

The history and importance of Veterans' Day and Memorial Day. Such instruction may include two (2) forty-five (45) minute lessons that occur on or before the respective holidays.

W. This history of communism (beginning in the 2026-2027 school year). Such instruction must be age and developmentally appropriate and include:

1. The history of communism in the United States and domestic communist movements, including their histories and tactics.

2. Atrocities committed in foreign countries under the guidance of communism.

3. Comparative discussion of political ideologies, such as communism and totalitarianism, which conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy essential to the founding principles of the United States.

4. The increasing threat of communism in the United States and to our allies through the 20th century, including the events of the Cultural Revolution in the People's Republic of China and other mass killings from communist regimes.

5. The economic, industrial, and political events that have preceded and anticipated communist revolutions.

6. The communist policies of Cuba and the spread of communist ideologies throughout Latin America, including the roots of the Communist Party of Cuba and guerrilla forces throughout Latin America.

16. For students in grades 3 through 5, the study of cursive writing and the development of the skills necessary for legible cursive writing, including:

1. letter formation;

2. proper spacing and alignment; and,

3. practice in writing complete words and sentences in cursive.

By the end of grade 5, each student must demonstrate proficiency in cursive writing. For purposes of this policy, the term "proficiency in cursive writing" means all of the following:

1. The ability to write uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet in cursive writing.

2. Writing words and sentences in cursive legibly and maintaining proper spacing and alignment.

3. The ability to read and apply cursive writing in a manner that supports literacy development, including writing essays and assignments in cursive writing in accordance with State academic standards.

Efficient and faithful teaching of the required topics must be consistent with the State academic standards, the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards and the principles stated in F.S. 1003.42. Efficient and faithful teaching further means that any discussion is appropriate for the age and maturity level of the students, and teachers serve as facilitators for student discussion and do not share their personal views or attempt to indoctrinate or persuade students to a particular point of view that is inconsistent with the State academic standards and the B.E.S.T. Standards.

Instruction on the required topics must be factual and objective, and may not suppress or distort significant historical events, such as the Holocaust, and may not define American history as something other than the creation of a new nation based largely on universal principles stated in the Declaration of Independence.

Resiliency Education Required Instruction

Civic and character education (see F.A.C. Rule 6A-1.094124), and life skills education that builds confidence and supports mental health, are combined to develop and prepare more resilient students. The Authority will provide annually a minimum of five (5) hours of data-driven instruction to students in grades 6-12 related to civic and character education and life skills education through resiliency education. Using the health education standards adopted in F.A.C. Rule 6A-1.09401, the instruction will advance each year through developmentally appropriate instruction and skill building and will address, at a minimum, the following topics:

A. Strategies specific to demonstrating resiliency through adversity, including the benefits of service to the community through volunteerism.

B. Strategies to develop health characteristics that reinforce positive core values and foster resiliency, such as:

    1. empathy, perseverance, grit, gratitude, and responsibility;

    2. critical thinking, problem solving, and responsible decision-making;

    3. self-awareness and self-management;

    4. mentorship and citizenship; and

    5. honesty.

C. Recognition of signs and symptoms of mental health concerns.

D. Promotion of resiliency to empower youth to persevere and reverse the harmful stigma of mental health by reframing the approach from mental health education to resiliency education.

E. Strategies to support a peer, friends, or family member through adversity.

F. Prevention of suicide.

G. Prevention of the abuse of and addiction to alcohol, nicotine, and drugs.

H. Awareness of local school and community resources and the process for accessing assistance.

Instruction in Operation of Motor Vehicles

See Board Policy 2432.

Computer Science and Technology Instruction

'Computer science' is the study of computers and algorithmic process, including their principles, hardware, and software designs, applications, and their impact on society, and includes computer coding and computer programming.

The Board shall provide students in grades K-12 opportunities for learning computer science, including, but not limited to, computer coding and computer programming. Computer science courses offered in middle and high schools shall include the opportunity to earn industry certifications, when possible. Coding instruction may be provided in elementary and middle schools. Instruction to develop students' computer usage and digital literacy skills may be provided in middle school.

Exemptions from Certain Instruction

Any student whose parent makes a written request to the Principal shall be exempted from the teaching of reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, its symptoms, development, and treatment. A student so exempted will not be penalized by reason of that exemption.

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F.S. 1001.51
F.S. 1003.42
F.S. 1003.4205
F.S. 1003.44
F.S. 1003.453
F.S. 1003.48
F.S. 1007.2616
F.A.C. 6A-1.094124

Revised Policy - Vol. 27, No. 1, June 2026 - PHYSICAL EDUCATION

ADOPTED Apr 12, 2016 REVISED Mar 10, 2026

2280 - **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

The Governing Board recognizes the value of physical education to the maintenance of the health and vitality of all students, as well as to the development of life-long habits that will enhance personal fitness and wellness and has available to students one-on-one counseling concerning the benefits of physical education.

Therefore, it shall be the policy of the Board that opportunities for physical education that are consistent with the Florida Early Learning Services Birth to Five standards for physical development shall be available to all students in Pre-Kindergarten.

Students in kindergarten through grade five (5) shall be provided 150 minutes of physical education, as defined in State law, each week. Students in grade six who are enrolled in a school with students in Kindergarten through grade five shall also be provided 150 minutes of physical education as defined in State law each week.

In addition to the requirements for physical education, the Board will provide at least 100 minutes of supervised, safe, and unstructured free-play recess each week for students in kindergarten through grade 5 so that there are at least twenty (20) consecutive minutes of free-play recess per day.

For students in a middle school, which has enrolled students in grades six through eight, each student is required to complete one (1) class period for one (1) semester per school year of physical education.

Students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) shall be required to earn a minimum of at least one (1) credit in physical education.

The physical education curriculum in this Authority shall be in accord with standards established by the Department of Education, as well as those recommended by the National Association of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation.

Physical education instruction shall include activities requiring at least a moderate level of physical exertion and duration sufficient to provide a health benefit for the participants.

When planning the required activities, the instructor shall consider the different capabilities of the students and adapt the plans accordingly.

Each student's parents shall be notified by The School Board of Lee County's Student Progression Plan of the options available to waive participation in physical education prior to the placement of physical education on a student's schedule. A student must meet one (1) of the following criteria to be available for waiver from the required physical education class:

A. the student is enrolled or required to enroll in a remedial course;

B. the student's parent indicates in writing to the school that:

1. the parent requests that the student enroll in another course from among those courses offered as options by the Authority; or

2. the student is participating in physical activities outside the school day which are equal to or in excess of the mandated requirement.

Provision shall be made at all levels to excuse individual students from specific activities if direction to do so is received, in writing, from the student's physician.

Students may be excused from specific activities if those activities are contrary to their religious beliefs. A request to excuse a student from such activities must be received in writing from the student's parent or from the eligible student.

If one (1) of the above criteria is met and the parent has notified the District, the student will not have physical education placed on their schedule for that ensuing school year.

Additionally, each student's parents will be notified by the Student Progression Plan as follows:

A. A student can fulfill one (1) unit of credit in physical education by participating in interscholastic sports at the junior varsity or varsity level for two (2) full seasons ~~and passing the State-developed competency test on physical fitness with a score of "C" or better.~~ Students are not required to take the one (1) credit in physical education during their 9th grade year.

B. Completion of two (2) years of marching band shall satisfy the one (1) credit requirement in physical education ~~or~~ and the one (1) credit requirement in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive physical education under an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan. Completion of one (1) semester with a grade of "C" or better in a marching band class, in a physical activity class that requires participation in marching band activities as an extra curricular activity, or

in a dance class shall satisfy one-half (1/2) credit in physical education or one-half (1/2) credit in performing arts.

C. Completion of one (1) credit with a grade of "C" or better in a dance techniques course, a significant component of which is activities designed to maintain or improve health-related fitness and lifelong fitness, shall satisfy the one (1) credit requirement in physical education or the one (1) credit requirement in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive physical education under an IEP or 504 Plan.

D. Completion of one (1) semester with a grade of "C" or better in a marching band class, in a physical activity class that requires participation in marching band activities as an extra-curricular activity, or in a dance class shall satisfy one-half (1/2) credit in physical education or one-half (1/2) credit in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive physical education under an IEP or 504 Plan.

E. Completion of two (2) years in a Reserve Officer Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) class, a significant component of which is drills, shall satisfy the one (1) credit requirement in physical education and the one (1) credit requirement in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive physical education under an IEP or 504 plan.

F. T~~aking a marching band class, a physical activity class, or a dance class or by completing two (2) years of JROTC will not be a substitute for the personal fitness or adaptive physical education requirements required by Florida law.~~ A student with a disability may participate in the Special Olympics as a course substitution for the one (1) credit physical education requirement. A student who chooses this option must participate in the Special Olympics for one (1) school year, as determined by the student's IEP team.

The Superintendent shall annually review the CCCCSA wellness policy and include it as an item on a Board meeting agenda for public input and revision.

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Revised Policy - Vol. 27, No. 1, June 2026 - CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

ADOPTED Apr 12, 2016 REVISED Apr 14, 2026

2421 - **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

The Governing Board recognizes that education is a function of both knowledge and the application of knowledge. Education that ties abstract ideas to practical applications also prepares students to use their minds, as well as preparing them to be citizens, parents, and members of a civilized culture. Career and technical education and academic education are complementary, rather than exclusive.

Career and technical education will provide experiences that complement and reinforce academic concepts that are particularly amenable to contextualized learning in a distinct career area and provide occupationally specific skills.

The Board shall provide career and technical education program offerings that include, but are not limited to:

A. job preparatory courses designed to provide students with the competencies necessary for effective entry into an occupation;

B. exploratory courses designed to give students initial exposure to skills and attitudes associated with a broad range of occupations in order to assist them in making informed decisions regarding their future academic and occupational goals;

C. practical arts courses designed to teach students practical generic skills which, although applicable in some occupations, are not designed to prepare students for entry into an occupation;

D. career education instruction which is designed to strengthen and integrate basic academic skills and career/technical skills and occupational awareness;

E. accelerated career and technical programs such as vocational dual enrollment designed to enable high school students to earn elective credit toward graduation and postsecondary credit toward an A.S. degree or a technical certificate.

Additionally, Oasis High School shall host a career fair during the school year and establish a process to provide students in grades 11 and 12 the opportunity to meet or interview with potential employers during the career fair. The career fair must be held on the campus of the high school, except that a group of high schools in the System may hold a joint career fair at an alternative location to satisfy this requirement. A joint career fair must be held at a location within reasonable driving distance for students at all participating schools. The career fair must be held during the school day and may use Florida's online career planning and work-based learning system as part of the career fair activities. Alternatively, the Oasis High School may consult with local workforce development boards, advisory committees, and business groups to determine free or cost-effective methods to provide other career and industry networking opportunities during the school day for secondary students, and exposure for elementary and secondary students to a representative variety of industries, business, and careers.

Any effort to recruit students to participate in a particular career and technical program shall follow applicable State and Federal laws regarding provision of information.

Career and technical education program offerings are available to middle and high school students without regard to race (including anti-Semitism), color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, transgender status, or gender identity), age, disability(including HIV, AIDS, or sickle cell trait), pregnancy, or marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law. The Superintendent is to ensure that application forms for cooperative education programs contain a notice of nondiscrimination. The notice of nondiscrimination shall be part of the application forms provided to employers.

Procedures for program operation in accordance with applicable labor laws are incorporated in the FLDOE, Curriculum Frameworks, and Student Performance Standards. Those documents are kept on file in the Superintendent's office.

Digital Materials, CAPE Digital Tool Certificates, and CAPE Industry Certifications

The CCCCSA, in consultation with the Superintendent, shall make available digital materials, CAPE Digital Tool certificates, and CAPE industry certifications for students in prekindergarten through grade 12 in order to enable students to attain digital skills. The digital materials, CAPE Digital Tool certificates, and CAPE industry certifications may be integrated into subject area curricula, offered as a separate course, made available through open-access options, or deployed through online or digital computer applications. Middle grade students may not earn more than two (2) CAPE Digital Tool certificates per school year.

The CCCCSA may seek partnerships with other school districts, private businesses, postsecondary institutions, or consultants to offer classes and instruction to teachers and

students to assist the CCCCSA in providing digital materials, CAPE Digital Tool certificates, and CAPE industry certifications established pursuant to F.S. 1003.4203.

Career-Themed Courses

The Authority shall offer at least two (2) career-themed courses at the middle and high school levels.

A "career-themed course" is a course, or a course in a series of courses, that leads to an industry certification identified in the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of Education. Career-themed courses have industry-specific curriculum aligned directly to priority workforce needs established by the regional workforce board or the Department of Economic Opportunity. Students completing a career-themed course will be provided opportunities to earn postsecondary credit if the credit for the career-themed course can be articulated to a postsecondary institution approved to operate in the State.

Industry Certification in Industry-Certified Career Education Programs

Secondary schools offering career-themed courses and career and professional academies shall enable students in such programs to earn industry certification in an industry that is:

A. within an industry that addresses a critical local or Statewide economic need;

B. linked to an occupation that is included in the workforce system's targeted occupation list; or

C. linked to an occupation that is identified as emerging.

To earn industry certification, the student must demonstrate the required proficiency on an assessment evaluated by an independent, third-party certifying entity using predetermined standards for knowledge, skills, and competencies.

The Board further expects that students who successfully complete the curriculum of the career-themed courses that are established at the middle school level will have the opportunity to earn an industry certificate, high school credit, and participate in career planning, job shadowing, and business leadership development activities.

The Board encourages the Superintendent to forge partnerships with local businesses in the development of career-themed courses. These partnerships will help prepare students for the State's workforce needs, as well as help attract, expand, and retain targeted, high-value industry and jobs in the community.

The Authority's career-themed courses should increase student academic achievement and graduation rates through integrated academic and career curriculum. Each middle school

career exploration program, middle, and high school career-themed courses leading to industry certification, and high school graduation requirements shall be aligned.

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F.S. 445.004
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F.S. 1003.41
F.S. 1003.4156
F.S. 1003.4203
F.S. 1003.4282
F.S. 1003.491
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F.A.C. 6A-1.09442
F.A.C. 6A-6.0200
F.A.C. 6A-6.0576

F.A.C. 6A-10.0244
F.A.C. 6A-10.0381
F.A.C. 6A-20.0284
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po2431

Revised Policy - Vol. 27, No. 1, June 2026 - INTERSCHOLASTIC AND INTRASCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

ADOPTED Apr 12, 2016 REVISED Mar 10, 2026

2431 - **INTERSCHOLASTIC AND INTRASCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**

The Governing Board recognizes the value of interscholastic athletics and the positive impact sports have on students. A program of interscholastic athletics for students is an integral part of the total school experience and benefits the community as a whole. The program should foster the growth of school loyalty within the student body as a whole and stimulate community interest in athletics. Participation in the Authority's interscholastic athletics programs by a student is a privilege, not a right.

The program of interscholastic athletics shall include all activities relating to competitive sport contests, games, events, or sport exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students from high schools in this Authority with those from a high school in another district.

Competition involving middle schools (grades 6-8) shall be in accordance with Florida High School Athletic Association's (FHSAA's) bylaws.

Since the primary purpose of the interscholastic athletics program is to enhance the education of participating students, as indicated in this policy, the Board places top priority on maximum student participation and the values of good sportsmanship, team play, and fair competition, rather than on winning, particularly at sub-varsity levels. No student shall be excused from a class or supervised study for an extended period of time to participate in interscholastic athletics.

An interscholastic athletic contest is any competition between organized teams or individuals of different schools in a sport recognized by the FHSAA, and therefore shall be subject to all regulations pertaining to such contests. The interscholastic athletics program shall be considered an essential part of the total school program and shall be under the principal's direction and general supervision. The principal shall select the personnel to direct and to act as coaches and advisors.

Appropriate adult supervision consistent with Florida law shall be provided to all students. All athletic coaches and sponsors of extra-curricular activities involving outdoor practices or events shall complete annual training in exertional heat stroke (EHS) identification, prevention, and response, including effective administration of cooling zones.

Eligibility and Regulation

All middle schools and high schools shall be members of the FHSAA and governed by its rules and regulations. All ~~Authority~~ participating students (including transfer students) shall satisfy the eligibility requirements established by the FHSAA, Florida law, Board Policy 2431.01, and Policy 5610.05.

~~Students~~ Eligible students may be enrolled in the Authority, a private school l, charter school, including full-time virtual charter schools alternative school, ~~.~~ Florida Virtual School (FLVS), home education students ~~enrolled~~ in a full-time virtual instruction program under F.S. 1002.45, or educated at home, under F.S. 1002.41. Eligible students are permitted to participate in an Authority interscholastic or intrascholastic sport and must fulfill the same academic and nonacademic requirements as any other participant in accordance with F.S. 1006.15 .~~:~~

~~A student who participates in an int~~ A student who participates in an inte rscholastic or intrascholastic activity at an Authority public school and who transfers from that school during the school year must be allowed to continue to participate in the activity at that school for the remainder of the school year if:

A. during the period of participation in the activity, the student continues to meet the requirements specified in F.S. 1006.15.

B. the student continues to meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance which are required of other students participating in the activity, except for enrollment requirements at the school at which the student participates.

C. the parents of the student participating in the activity provide for the transportation of the student to and from the school at which the student participates. The school the student attends, the school at which the student participates in the activity, and the Board are exempt from civil liability arising from any injury that occurs to the student during such transportation.

The Principal of each Authority school shall be responsible for determining each participant's eligibility pursuant to State law, the rules of this Board, and the bylaws of the FHSAA. Any school that allows an ineligible student to participate shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Florida law and the bylaws of the FHSAA. (see also Policy 2431.01)

The interscholastic athletics program requires as follows:

A. Prior to enrolling in the sport,

1. ~~e~~ e ach participant shall ~~submit to a thorough physical~~ satisfactorily pass a medical examination ~~by a physician;~~ each year that is administered only by a practitioner licensed under F.S. Chapters 458, 459, or 460, or F.S. 464.012, or by a practitioner who holds an active equivalent licensure issued by the State in which the medical evaluation is performed, and is in good standing with the practitioner's regulatory board, unless the parent objects in writing based on religious tenets or practices in accordance with F.S. 1006.20 ;

2. and parents shall report any past or current health problems along with a physician's statement that any such problems have or are being treated and pose no threat to the student's participation ; ~~.~~

~~Physicals~~ Medical evaluations must be dated June 1st or later of the current school year

3. and beginning in the 2026-2027 school year and thereafter, the first time a student who is in grades 9 through 12 participates in an interscholastic athletic competition or is a candidate for an interscholastic athletic team, the student shall complete at least one (1) electrocardiogram screening that meets the requirements of F.S. 1006.165. A student shall be granted an exception to the electrocardiogram requirement if the parent of the student objects in writing to the student receiving an electrocardiogram because the electrocardiogram is contrary to the student's religious tenets or practices or if a physician licensed under F.S. Chapter 458 or Chapter 459 in good standing with the Board of Medicine or Board of Osteopathic Medicine, as applicable, provides a certificate of medical exception.

B. Any student who is found to have a health condition which may be life-threatening to self or others shall not be allowed to participate until the situation has been analyzed by a medical review panel that has determined the conditions under which the student may participate. Pursuant to F.S. 1006.20(2)d, the Authority shall not be liable for any student with a health condition who has been authorized to play by the parent(s) if the parent(s) of the student objects in writing to the student undergoing a medical evaluation because such evaluation is contrary to his/her religious tenets or practices.

C. Any student who incurs an injury requiring a physician's care is to have the written approval of a physician prior to the student's return to participation.

D. In order to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes and maintain ethical standards, school personnel, coaches, athletic trainers, and lay coaches should never dispense, supply, recommend, or permit the use of any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes.

E. The Superintendent and Authority school Principals will require that sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity characterize the manner in which the athletic program is conducted and the actions of students who participate.

In order to support the FHSAA's program to strengthen sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity, the Board commits itself to:

A. adopt policies (upon recommendation of the administration) which reflect the Authority's educational objectives and promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity;

B. reinforce the concept that participation in athletic activities are a privilege, not a right;

C. attend and enjoy school athletic activities, serving as a positive role model and expecting the same from parents, fans, participants, coaches, and other school personnel;

D. support and recognize participants, coaches, school administrators, and fans who display good sportsmanship; and

E. recognize the value of school athletic activities as a vital part of education.

Participation by Agreement

An individual public school student who is otherwise eligible to participate in interscholastic extra-curricular activities may either participate in any such activity at any public school in the Authority in which the student resides or develop an agreement to participate in such activity at a private school, unless the activity is provided by the student's traditional public school.

Such student must: ;

A.meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance that are required of other students in extra-curricular activities at the school at which the student wishes to participate;

B. before participation, register with the school the student's intent to participate in interscholastic extra-curricular activities as a representative of the school. The student must be able to participate in curricular activities if that is a requirement for an extra-curricular activity.

Insurance

Any insurance provided by the Authority ~~District~~ for participants in athletics must be provided for all eligible students.

Records

The athletic director or other appropriate administrator of each school, appointed by the principal, shall maintain the records necessary for eligibility, compliance, and participation for all eligible students participating in interscholastic or intrascholastic activities at the school. Any school that has a student who is seeking to participate in these activities at another school must make all records related to that student, including, but not limited to, academic, financial, disciplinary, and attendance records, available upon request of the FHSAA or other governing organization.

Activity Fees for Eligible Students Participating in Interscholastic and Intrascholastic Athletic Activities

Each public school may assess an activity fee to an enrolled student participating in interscholastic or intrascholastic athletic activities. Each school must publish a complete list of fees by activity on its website before the beginning of each school year.

Each public school may also assess such an activity fee to a student who is not enrolled but is eligible to participate pursuant to F.S. 1001.32. If a fee is assessed, it shall not exceed the greater of the following:

1. the fee that students enrolled at the school pay to participate in the activity; or,

2. a reasonable fee based on the costs to the school (not to exceed $400 per activity).

Home education students pursuant to F.S. 1002.41 or a public school student participating at a public school at which they are not enrolled may only be assessed the fee paid by students enrolled at the school.

Transportation

The parent of the student participating in the interscholastic or intrascholastic athletic activity must provide for the transportation of the student to and from the school at which the student participates. The school in which the student is enrolled, the school at which the student participates in the activity, and the Board are exempt from civil liability arising from any injury that occurs to the student during such transportation.

Recruiting Prohibited/Penalties

The Board recognizes that the recruitment of student athletes is strictly prohibited by F.S. 1006.20. The FHSAA, through its bylaws, has prescribed penalties, sanctions, and an appeals process for athletic recruiting violations. These penalties and sanctions may be applied by the FHSAA against a member school, student athletes, and coaches. In addition to FHSAA penalties and sanctions, Authority employees found to have engaged in the improper recruitment of a student athlete may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

A student may not be declared ineligible based on violation of recruiting rules unless the student or parent has falsified any enrollment or eligibility document or accepted any benefit or any promise of benefit if such benefit is not generally available to the school's students or family members or is based in any way on athletic interest, potential, or performance.

Eligibility Appeals

If the Principal determines that a transfer student is ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, a student may submit an appeal in accordance with Florida law and the FHSAA's Bylaws.

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Legal
F.S. 1002.20
F.S. 1006.15
F.S. 1006.165
F.S. 1006.195
F.S. 1006.20