

POLICY 7.134

4-E I recommend the Board adopt 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]

Adoption

- At the first reading for development on June 17, the School Board approved the proposed Policy, with an amendment. The bold italic text in lines 45-46 is based on the amendment.
- Fla. Stat. § 230.23(20) mandates that the Board must adopt a Policy *encouraging* (but not 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 being 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;
9 improved teacher and student attitudes, student self-perception, and academic
10 achievement; and increased parental involvement.

- 11 2. Pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 235.2157(2), a school on a single campus which operates
12 as a school-within-a-school, as defined by section (3) below, shall be considered a
13 "small school" if each unit located on the single campus falls below the student-
14 population limits listed in paragraphs (4)(a)-(e) of this Policy.

- 15 3. The term "school-within-a-school" shall be defined as an *operational program* that
16 uses flexible scheduling, team planning, and curricular and instructional innovation
17 to organize groups of students with groups of teachers as smaller units, so as to
18 functionally operate as a smaller school.

- 19 4. As mandated by Fla. Stat. § 230.23(20), the School Board hereby adopts a policy
20 of encouraging (but **not** requiring) schools to subdivide into "schools-within-a-
21 school" for the 2002-03 school year and thereafter, if such schools fall within the
22 following categories:
 - 23 a. elementary schools with a student population of more than 500 students.
 - 24 b. middle schools with a student population of more than 700 students.
 - 25 c. high schools with a student population of more than 900 students.
 - 26 d. any school serving kindergarten through grade 8 with a student population of
27 more than 700 students.
 - 28 e. any school serving kindergarten through grade 12 with a student population of
29 more than 900.

- 30 5. A school-within-a-school shall operate within **existing resources**, as required by §
31 230.23(20), Fla. Stat.

32 6. When planning for and implementing a school-within-a-school, the school principal
33 shall advise and counsel with the Area Superintendent and School Advisory
34 Council to develop a program patterned after one of the following models set forth
35 in Fla. Stat. § 230.23(20), or a similar model:

36 a. An organizational arrangement assigning both students and teachers to
37 smaller units in which the students take some or all of their coursework with
38 cohorts in this group and from the teachers assigned to this smaller unit. A unit
39 may be grouped together for either one (1) year or on a vertical, multiyear
40 basis.

41 b. An organizational arrangement similar to that described in paragraph (a), with
42 additional variations in instruction and curriculum. The smaller unit usually
43 seeks to maintain a program different from that of the larger school, or of other
44 smaller units. It may be vertically organized, but is dependent upon the school
45 principal for its existence, budget, and staff. ***The District's career-education***
46 ***centers may be an example of this model.***

47 c. A separate and autonomous smaller unit formally authorized by the school
48 board or superintendent. The smaller unit plans and runs its own program, has
49 its own staff and students, and receives its own separate budget. The smaller
50 unit must negotiate the use of common space with the larger school and defer
51 to the building principal on matters of safety and building operation.

52 7. Unless otherwise specifically authorized by the School Board, when a school-
53 within-a-school is created, the school principal shall maintain oversight of all
54 portions of the school site, consistent with School Board Policy 1.014 and Fla. Stat.
55 § 231.085, although the immediate supervision of the smaller unit may be
56 delegated to another administrator.

57 8. The establishment of a school-within-a-school will be carried out consistent with
58 Article IX of the Classroom Teachers Association Collective Bargaining Agreement,
59 or other applicable collective bargaining Agreement, if said Article or Agreements
60 are deemed applicable.

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

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

64 HISTORY: _____ / _____ /02

Legal Signoff:

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

Attorney

Date

Summary of Estimated Cost form (*if prepared*)

Publication of Development Notice

Publication of Adoption Notice