

Florida Association for Pupil Transportation 2007 Conference

Department of Education
School Transportation Monitoring

School Transportation Monitoring

Section 1008.32, F.S., states: “The State Board of Education shall oversee the performance of district school boards and public postsecondary educational institution boards in enforcement of all laws and rules.”

With this authorization, the Department of Education (DOE) monitors each local school district’s transportation program for safety compliance on a four-year rotating schedule.

School Transportation Monitoring

The DOE tries to perform this required oversight function with as little disruption as possible.

This oversight can benefit school districts in dealing with matters of public opinion, litigation, policy proposal and argument, personnel issues, etc.

Criteria

- School Bus Evacuation Drills
- School Bus Loading Zones
- School Bus Operator Licensure and Qualifications
- School Bus Inspection Records
- School Bus Safety Inspections
- Special Needs Transportation

Monitoring Procedures

- Step #1: School districts are required to complete an “in-house” self-evaluation.
- Step #2: DOE reviews each district’s self-evaluation for completeness and correctness.
- Step #3: DOE schedules on-site visits based on past compliance and current self-evaluation.
- Step #4: Follow-up documentation / actions (e.g., preliminary reports, corrective actions, final reports and follow-up visits).

Monitoring Procedures Changes

Past Time Line:

- Self-evaluation
- DOE visits

Sept. – October
January – May

Current Time Line:

- Self-evaluation
- DOE visits

February – June
October – April

Charter Schools

Excerpt: *Charter Schools Transportation Resource Guide*

“District sponsors have a duty, in turn, to monitor charter schools (Section 1002.33(5)(b), F.S.), which includes assessing the compliance of charter schools with requirements relating to student transportation safety (Section 1002.33(16)(a), F.S.). The charter agreement must include plans to ensure the safety of students and staff (Section 1002.33(7)(a)11, F.S.).”

Charter Schools

The districts' self-evaluation and DOE on-site monitoring visit will include sample sizes for each charter school providing transportation in privately owned and/or contracted school buses.

Transportation Monitoring Compliance Summary

Monitoring Cycles	Criterion I Evac. Drills		Criterion II L/Zones		Criterion V Insp. Records		Criterion VI Driver/Records		Criterion VII Bus/Inspections	
	97-98	02-03	97-98	02-03	97-98	02-03	97-98	02-03	97-98	02-03
97-98 to 02-03	97-98 61.1% Complied	02-03 77.8% Complied	97-98 44.4% Complied	02-03 72.2% Complied	97-98 38.9% Complied	02-03 72.2% Complied	97-98 50% Complied	02-03 55.6% Complied	97-98 44.4% Complied	02-03 88.9% Complied
98-99 to 03-04	98-99 75% Complied	03-04 75% Complied	98-99 75% Complied	03-04 68.8% Complied	98-99 62.5% Complied	03-04 68.8% Complied	98-99 56.3% Complied	03-04 62.5% Complied	98-99 62.5% Complied	03-04 81.3% Complied
99-00 to 04-05	99-00 76.5 % Complied	04-05 82.3% Complied	99-00 70.5% Complied	04-05 76.4% Complied	99-00 58.8% Complied	04-05 80% Complied	99-00 64.7% Complied	04-05 80% Complied	99-00 52.9% Complied	04-05 71.4% Complied
00-01 to 05-06	00-01 87.5% Complied	05-06 80% Complied	00-01 62.5% Complied	05-06 86.6% Complied	00-01 75% Complied	05-06 100% Complied	00-01 50% Complied	05-06 80% Complied	00-01 81.3% Complied	05-06 93.9% Complied

Questions ?

Bud Fletcher
Monitoring Coordinator
(850) 245-9795
Bud.fletcher@fldoe.org

All DOE School Transportation Management staff can help with monitoring questions.