



# Legislative and State Issues

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Presented to 60<sup>th</sup> FAPT  
Conference  
June 26, 2007



# Legislation 2006--Passed

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- Senate Bill 772, Relating to Schools
  - Section 14 of bill amended Section 1006.22, FS, to add an authorized exception to use of bus for trips to and from agriculture program sites and events (no exception for home-school-home)
  - Ag-science students may not drive on public roads
  - TAN #T-07-03, Vehicle Usage, 9/06



# Legislation 2006--Passed

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- House Bill 7087, Relating to Education
  - Public schools may start no earlier than 14 days before Labor Day
- Appropriations for 2006-07:  
\$483,032,198 (7% increase over 2005-06)



# Legislation 2007--Failed

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- HB 187 and SB 2088- Diana Kautz Student Safety Sponsors Act
- SB 98 and HBs 533, 683- Proximity of sexual offenders to bus stops
- HB 147 and SB 2126- Hazardous walking extended to Grades 7-12, speed limit lowered, six lane roads, proximity of sexual offenders



# Legislation 2007--Failed

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- HB 643 and SB 428- School bus stop safety reviews and plans required
- HB 7123- Districts required to purchase 20% biodiesel starting January 1, 2008
- HB 7215- Would have reenacted no-fault PIP insurance; will now sunset October 1, 2007
- SB 114, HB 575- Bullying and Harassment



# Legislation 2007--Passed

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- Appropriations for 2007-08 is \$493,566,586 (+2.18%)
- SB 2- Unattended Child in Motor Vehicle- increases to 2<sup>nd</sup> degree misdemeanor, or 3<sup>rd</sup> degree felony if child harmed
- Claims Bills (48, 74) for families of Diana Kautz, Brooke Ingoldsby
- Tax reform legislation



# Rule Changes--Adopted

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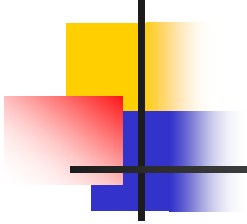
- Chapter 6A-3, FAC (State Board of Education Rules) revised eff. 11/25/06
  - Districts must adopt policy prohibiting cell phone use while actively operating bus
  - Provides for hybrid bus pilots
  - Requires evac instructions at start of each field and activity trip



# Rule Changes—Adopted

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- Chapter 6A-3, FAC (State Board of Education Rules) revised eff. 11/25/06
  - Codifies current automated systems for bus accident reporting, hazardous walking reporting, school bus inventory reporting
  - Annual instructions to parents required re: their responsibilities for student safety
  - Drivers must do post-trip inspection



# Are We THERE Yet?!

*Staying Safe  
Between Home  
and School*



June 26, 2007

60th FAPT Conference



# Rule Changes--Adopted

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- Chapter 6A-3, FAC (State Board of Education Rules) revised eff. 11/25/06
  - Requires school board policy to prevent unnecessary idling while buses are in vicinity of students



# New School Bus Operators Pre-service Curriculum

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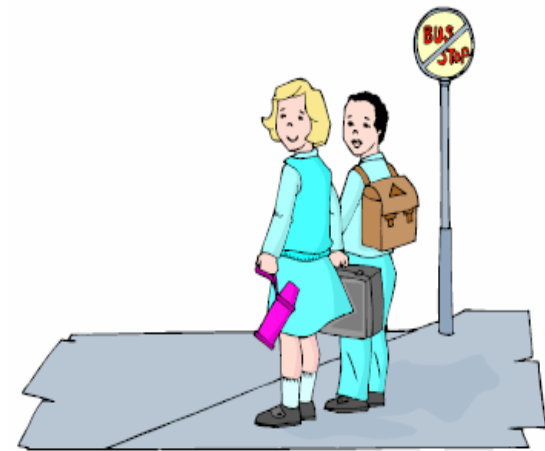
- Must use effective April 25, 2007
- All in PowerPoint with instructor's notes
- Standard statewide procedures for loading/unloading, RR crossings, and others
- 180 copies distributed at Lake Yale



# Safe Stopping Procedure

**To perform a safe stop, school bus operators must:**

- Instruct students in safe loading procedures (see your supervisor for guidance).
- Activate amber warning lights 200 feet before stopping.
- Stop a safe distance (at least 12 feet) from any students outside the bus.
- When stopped, deactivate amber lights and activate red warning lights, stop arms, and bumper cross arm.
- Look for pedestrians, traffic, and other hazards before, during, and after coming to a stop and make sure all traffic has stopped.
- Engage parking brake and place transmission in neutral position.



# Loading Passengers on the Highway or Street

- Raise hand toward students outside the bus (open palm) to indicate "stop."
- Make eye contact and count students.
- Check mirrors and look for moving traffic and hazards.
- When safe, open door and signal students to board. When safe, signal students who must cross road by pointing to them (two fingers extended, thumb down) and then pointing to where you want them to go. *Avoid sweeping motion that may confuse motorists.*
- In case of danger, use horn or public address (PA) system to signal students to clear roadway.
- When all students are on bus, close door, count students, and ensure they are seated.
- Deactivate warning lights and check all mirrors.
- Check traffic and proceed on route when safe.





# Orderly Loading

Have students:

- arrive on time,
- wait in "single file" or in an orderly group,
- stand back until bus is stopped,
- help young passengers get on first,
- use hand rails when entering bus, and
- move directly to their seats.

Operator should:

- close door and check that students seated,
- look for stragglers, and
- beware of dropped items.



# Unloading Passengers on the Highway or Street



Instruct students about the following safety procedures:

- Move well away from side of bus after leaving.
- Do not get mail from roadside box until bus has left.
- Students who cross the road should be instructed in the following additional safety procedures:
  - take at least 12 steps in front of the bus before starting across the roadway (so operator can see student's feet);
  - wait for proper signal from operator before crossing;
  - stop at traffic side of bus and look left, right, and left again; cross only if approaching traffic has stopped;
  - walk across roadway; and
  - do not stop or return if an item is dropped. The bus operator will take responsibility for retrieving object if possible (check local policy).
- Unloading procedure:
  - Check right and left mirrors and look ahead to be sure all traffic has stopped.
  - Tell students when it is safe to stand up and proceed toward the door.
  - Open door and count children as they exit the bus.
  - Make sure students move at least 12 feet away from the side of the bus and remain in your view.
  - When safe, signal to any students who must cross the road by pointing to them (two fingers extended, thumb down) and then pointing to where they should go. *Avoid sweeping motion that may confuse motorists.*
  - In case of danger, use horn or PA system to signal students to clear roadway.
  - Count students again and ensure all are a safe distance from the bus.
  - Close door and check all mirrors carefully, especially right-hand mirrors (for students who do not cross the road) to ensure they are away from the bus.
  - Deactivate warning lights. Proceed when safe and all children are accounted for and safely away from the bus.



## Links:

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- [www.flrules.org/default.asp](http://www.flrules.org/default.asp)
- [www.leg.state.fl.us](http://www.leg.state.fl.us)
- [www.fldoe.org/transportation](http://www.fldoe.org/transportation)
- [www.FAPTFlorida.org](http://www.FAPTFlorida.org)



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Questions and Comments?

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