

# **2009 Mid-year Directors' Meeting**

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.
- Step #4: Follow-up documentation / actions (e.g., preliminary reports, corrective actions, final reports and follow-up documentation and/or visits).

# 2009-10 Monitoring Procedures Changes

## Current Time Line:

- Self-evaluation February – June
- DOE visits October – April

## New Time Line:

- Self-evaluation June – December
- Regional Training June – July
- DOE visits / reports December – May

# DOE Monitoring Preliminary Reports

- Sent to Directors only.
- May require additional documentation.
- May require corrective action plans (CAPs) to be returned to DOE.
- Applicable anytime district does not return sufficient evacuation drills and/or loading zones documentation.
- Applicable anytime district does not return sufficient evacuation drills and/or loading zones CAPs.

# DOE Monitoring Final Reports

- Sent to Superintendent
- Incorporates CAPs
- Transportation director are copied.
- May require additional actions such as a follow-up status report on applicable CAPs.

# 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 must include sample sizes for each charter school providing transportation in privately owned and/or contracted school buses.

# Questions ?

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