

**School Board**

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Jim Beekman

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On December 6, 2016, the School Board approved the recommendation to end courtesy busing for students who live less than 2 miles from their assigned school and do not meet the state criteria for hazardous walking conditions. This approved plan only affects middle and high school students at this time. Please note that effective for the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, the district will **no longer** be providing transportation for your student. We understand this change will alter morning and afternoon family routines. The district wants to ensure we provide the best transportation service for students while remaining fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars. We want to ensure you have all of the facts.

Florida Statute and Florida Administrative Code outlines transportation eligibility for students' kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade (K-12) for both hazardous walking conditions and funding. For students who live less than 2 miles to their assigned school, it becomes parental responsibility to ensure the safety of their students to and from school. A copy of this administrative code along with the code that identifies the 2-mile limit is attached with this letter. (FAC 6A-3.001 and FAC 6A-3.0121). There is eligibility identified for students who live less than 2 miles to their assigned school as long as they meet the criteria identified in Florida Statute 1006.23 for hazardous conditions. This criteria allows districts to provide transportation and receive funding for elementary students and gives the district the option to provide it for secondary students however no funding will be provided by the State. Many districts choose to only provide for elementary students however, Hillsborough County Public Schools does provide it for secondary students if they meet the same criteria.

During a recent audit of these areas in our district, it has been identified that your address no longer meets the criteria established by the State. A copy of these criteria is attached for your review that outlines the specifics that the State Auditors use when they review the district. We have created a form that you can submit if you feel there has been an error in this review of your address. Directions for completing the attached form are printed on the form. Please submit this form by **July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017** for consideration for the start of the 2017-18 academic school year. All of these materials, including the enclosed form, can be found by visiting the school district website (<http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us>) and searching "Go Busing". There, you will find additional resources to assist affected students and parents during the transition.

In the area at the bottom of the attached form, you will find space to indicate any other types of issues beyond the state criteria. We will forward these issues on to the appropriate jurisdictional authorities to review your concerns. Hillsborough County Public Schools is prohibited under statute to expend tax dollars earmarked for education on road or sidewalk improvements beyond school property.

Most cordially,

Jim Beekman  
General Manager of Transportation