

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA, REGARDING WAIVER OF EMERGENCY DRILLS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Whereas, The School Board of Duval County, Florida (the “School Board”), consisting of seven elected Florida Constitutional Officers, is the governing body for the School District of Duval County, Florida (the “district”);

Whereas, the district is the twentieth largest school district in the nation and the sixth largest school district in Florida, and serves 129,258 students, employs 11,876 full time staff (8,284 of whom are teachers) and 1,237 part-time staff;

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic is a monumental and unprecedented challenge, emerging quickly and demanding an immediate overhaul of instructional plans and school operations across the country;

Whereas, as the district plans to reopen schools for the attendance of students during the 2020-2021 school year, the district is implementing numerous measures to provide for the health and safety of students and employees during the COVID-19 pandemic, including social distancing as recommended by the Florida Department of Health whenever possible;

Whereas, section 1006.07(4), Florida Statutes, requires the district conduct emergency drills for fires, natural disasters, active shooter and hostage situations, and bomb threats, for all K-12 students and faculty at all public schools at least as often and other emergency drills; however, such emergency drills result in close contact of students and district staff that is contrary to the social distancing and other protective measures implemented by the district in response to COVID-19;

Whereas, in keeping with the School Board’s paramount concern for all students throughout the district for a safe and healthy learning environment and continuity of a high quality education, the School Board desires to memorialize its position regarding the implementation of social distancing measures during the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the School Board adopts the following resolutions:

1. The School Board requests that The Florida Department of Education waive the requirements of emergency drills set forth in section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, during the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to implement social distancing as recommended by health officials.
2. In lieu of conducting emergency drills, the School Board will direct the Superintendent to implement instructions for emergency procedures to be distributed to students and staff both visually and verbally.
3. The School Board shall post this resolution with the minutes of the July 16, 2020 School Board meeting, and shall deliver a copy of this resolution to the following:
 - a. All members of the Duval Delegation
 - c. The Honorable Bill Galvano, President of the Senate
 - d. The Honorable Jose R. Oliva, Speaker of the House

- e. The Honorable Ron DeSantis, Governor
- f. Commissioner Richard Corcoran
- g. All Members of the Florida State Board of Education
- h. All Florida Public School Board Chairpersons

ADOPTED, on July 16, 2020, in Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida, by the School Board of Duval County, Florida

ATTEST:

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DUVAL
COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
Dr. Diana Greene,
Superintendent of Schools
and Ex-Officio Secretary
to the Board

By: _____
Warren A. Jones, Chairman

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