



POLICY NO. 4210

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA (SBBC) PROMOTES ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP BY SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION AS AN ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIAL PRIORITY TO BE TAUGHT, PRACTICED, AND IMPLEMENTED DISTRICT-WIDE. SBBC UNDERSTANDS THE PROFOUND IMPACT THAT OUR ACTIONS HAVE ON OUR ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS AND NATURAL RESOURCES. THIS POLICY SERVES AS SBBC'S ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN (EP), IN SUPPORT OF SBBC'S STRATEGIC PLAN. THIS EP IS ADMINISTERED AND IMPLEMENTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE ENVIRONMENTAL AND EDUCATIONAL LEGISLATION.

- I. Section 1003.42(2)(m), Florida Statutes specifically identifies the conservation of natural resources as a prescribed course of study and Section 1003.42(2)(n)1., Florida Statutes describes comprehensive age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate K-12 health education that addresses concepts of community health, consumer health, environmental health, and family life. In accordance with state and federal legislation SBBC shall implement the following:

A. Education & Training

1. Providing quality education and training to all employees concerning environmental impacts, practices, and responsibilities.
2. Promoting and documenting internal and external department collaboration on environmental practices and programs.
3. Identifying and communicating Best Management Practices (BMP) in environmental stewardship and information to be shared with all stakeholders.
4. Incorporating instruction in environmental stewardship, including climate change, energy use, and resource conservation into SBBC's curriculum, and ensuring fidelity through an established monitoring process.
5. Providing training for all employees in current best practices on resource conservation and recycling procedures on an annual basis.

B. Conservation & Compliance Measures

1. Promoting environmentally sustainable business practices for procurement and the efficient use of materials and natural resources.
2. Improving and sustaining district practices and operations that impact the environment.
3. Reducing/diverting waste generated from its school campuses, facilities, and operations through source reduction, reuse, recycling, or rethinking.
4. Recognizing and rewarding resource conservation efforts by schools and staff.
5. Collaborating with stakeholders, agencies, and other organizations to promote and achieve common objectives based on sound data.
6. In accordance with Section 1013.23, Florida Statutes, investing in energy conservation measures that reduce energy consumption, produce a cost savings, and improve the quality of indoor air in facilities, and, when economically feasible, building, operating, maintaining, or renovating educational facilities in such a manner so as to minimize energy consumption and maximize energy savings.
7. In accordance with Section 1013.44, Florida Statutes, including passive design elements and low-energy usage features in the design and construction of new educational facilities.

C. Policy Oversight

1. The Board shall rename the Environmental Technical Advisory Committee (ETAC) as the Green Advisory Committee (GAC) and appoint its members. The GAC will monitor objectives, recommend environmental strategies, education programs and initiatives, and pilot projects to the Board, and identify responsibilities supporting the implementation of this EP.
2. The Superintendent shall develop administrative procedures based on Sections 1013.44 and 1013.23, Florida Statutes, and State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF) to support this policy, implement the EP, and monitor progress of the GAC.
3. The GAC shall report to the School Board monthly or as needed.
4. The GAC shall establish workgroups as needed to accomplish the EP.

D. Evaluation

The GAC shall:

1. Review and evaluate the effectiveness of the EP using established benchmarks on an annual basis.
2. Consider timelines, risks, impacts, costs, and savings to SBBC when making decisions concerning its environmental programs and projects.
3. Proactively identify and address emerging environmental issues and technologies.

Policy Custodian: Applied Learning Department

Former Policy Number(s): 7013 & 7014

Policy Status: Active

Authority: F.S. §§1003.42(2)(m), 1003.42(2)(n)1., 1013.23, and 1013.44

History: Adopted 9/9/08

Amended 9/13/2022