

## The School Board of Gadsden County

### Bylaws & Policies

Unless a specific policy has been amended and the date of the policy was revised is noted at the bottom of that policy, the bylaws and policies of The School Board of Gadsden County were adopted on June 25, 2013, and were in effect beginning June 26, 2013.

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#### 2700 - ACADEMICALLY HIGH-PERFORMING SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The School Board believes that a goal of any public school system should be to enable each student to achieve to the best of his/her ability. That end, is best achieved through continuous development of the curriculum, the selection, development, and retention of high quality staff members, and the motivation of each individual student, instructional staff member, support staff member, and administrator in the District.

Earning designation as an academically high-performing school district must not be viewed as an end unto itself, but rather as the standard for which the District strives each year.

Florida statute provides school districts that demonstrate the ability to consistently maintain or improve their high-performing status with exemptions from many requirements set forth in statute and in the rules adopted by the State Board of Education to implement State law.

The District must meet the following criteria if it is to be exempt from requirements in Florida statutes and from the State Board of Education rules that implement those statutes:

- A. earn a grade of "A" for two (2) consecutive years;
- B. have no District-operated school that earns a grade of "F";
- C. comply with all class size requirements;
- D. have no material weakness or noncompliance in its annual financial audit.

An academically high-performing school district, while exempt from a number of statutes and rules that govern school districts, is **not** exempt from the following:

- A. statutes pertaining to services for students with disabilities; civil rights/discrimination; student health; safety and welfare; student assessment program and school grading system
- B. statutes pertaining to financial matters, **except** that a high-performing district may waive the required program expenditure levels for grades K-12 as specified in Florida Statute
- C. statutes pertaining to planning and budgeting, **except** that a high-performing district may waive the required comprehensive reading plan specified in Florida statute, because these districts are approved to receive the research-based reading instruction allocation without complying with those provisions of law
- D. statutes governing election or compensation or district school board members
- E. Florida statute relating to differentiated pay and performance pay policies
- F. statutes pertaining to educational facilities, **except** that a high-performing district may waive statutory provisions relating to covered walkways for portables and statutory provisions relating to relocatable facilities over twenty (20)

years old

- G. statutes pertaining to instructional materials, **except** that a high-performing school district may waive the requirement to requisition State-adopted instructional materials from the depository of the publisher with whom a contract has been made, and a high-performing school district may also waive the requirement to use fifty percent (50%) or more of the annual instructional materials allocation on items to provide instruction at the level for which the items are designated

Upon earning the designation as an academically high-performing school district, the Superintendent shall submit an annual report to the State Board of Education and the Legislature on December 1st that delineates the performance of District students with regard to the subjects on the State-wide assessment program as required by State law.

Academically high-performing school districts retain the designation for three (3) years and may renew the designation if the criteria to do so are met. The requirements for renewal are as follows:

- A. comply with all class size requirements;
- B. have no material weaknesses or noncompliance in its annual financial audit
- C. earns a grade "A" for two (2) years within the previous three (3) year period
- D. have no District-operated school that earns a grade of "F" in any year

If the District is designated as an academically high-performing school district but fails to meet the requirements for renewal, then the Superintendent must provide written notification to the State Board of Education that the District is no longer eligible to be so designated.

If the District is designated as an academically high-performing school district and a district-operated school receives a grade of "F" at any time during the three (3) year period, the District loses the designation. If the District meets original eligibility requirements in the future, it can regain the designation.

The Superintendent shall develop and update as needed administrative procedures to implement this policy.

F.S. 218.39, 1003.621, 1008.34

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