

HARDEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Letter to Vendors/Contractors
Compliance of the Jessica Lunsford Act

To All Vendors and Contractors:

The Jessica Lunsford Act was enacted into law on September 1, 2005. The act was passed in response to the tragic abduction and killing of Jessica Lunsford by a convicted sexual offender. The law requires that all vendors, contractor and their employees must undergo a Level 2 Screening before being permitted on school grounds.

The bill defines a “noninstructional contractor” as any vendor, individual or entity under contract with the school board who receives remuneration for services performed. This includes the contractor’s employees, subcontractors and subcontractor’s employees.

The bill defines “school grounds” as the buildings and grounds of any public pre-kindergarten, kindergarten-elementary school, middle school, junior high school, high school or secondary school, or any combination of grades pre-kindergarten through grade 12 on school district land where buildings are located.

Contractors should first determine whether or not any employees or agents will meet the following criteria:

- be at school when students are present; or
- have direct contact with students; or
- have access to or control of school funds.

If any one or all of the items listed above pertain to the employee or agent, they will need to undergo a Level 2 Screening, in order to meet the state law with regards to students. The criminal history results must be reviewed to ensure none of the employees or agents of the contracted vendor has committed an offense listed in the statutory criteria.

On July 1, 2007, some revisions became effective that allows exemption from screening requirements for a “noninstructional contractor” who:

- under direct line-of sight- supervision of a person who meets the screening requirements.
- is already required and has undergone a level 2 screening.
- is a law enforcement officer assigned or dispatched to school grounds or an employee or medical director of an ambulance provider.
- works and remains in an area separated from students by a 6-foot chain link fence.
- provides pick-up or delivery services to school grounds.

Please refer to the *Checklist for Vendors/Contractors* for complete instructions for obtaining compliance with the School District of Hardee County.

We thank you for your services and ongoing cooperation in complying with the law.