TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NOTE

No. T-03-17

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Department of Education
Jim Horne, Commissioner

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DATE: **May 29, 2003**

TO: **School District Transportation Directors and Service Managers**

FROM: **Bill Schroyer, Program Director, Fleet Management**

SUBJECT: **Rule Revisions Relating to School Bus Inspection**

Rule 6A-3.0171, Florida Administrative Code, was revised, effective April 21, 2003, to incorporate changes recommended by the Florida Association for Pupil Transportation and its School Bus Inspection Committee. The revisions relate to the allowable schedule for inspection of school buses by districts, charter schools, or contracted garages. They also incorporate changes in the adopted Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Manual, 2003 Edition (attached).

Inspection of buses shall now be scheduled and performed at an interval of no more than 30 school days, superseding the former maximum 20-school day requirement. Districts may now choose to continue performing required safety inspections every 20 school days, or may extend inspection intervals up to a maximum of each 30 school days to accommodate local requirements.

There are a number of changes in the attached Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Manual, 2003 Edition, to reflect changes in bus specifications, inspection, and certification procedures. Please review the manual carefully to determine these changes. Your inspection-trainers have had a draft copy (now official) of these changes on the CD that was mailed to them earlier under TAN #T-03-13, January 30, 2003. This CD included the Department's PowerPoint-based inspector training program.

If you have any questions, please call Mike Starzinski or me at (850) 245-9795, or e-mail Mike at Michael.Starzinski@fldoe.org.

WRS/ms

Attachment: State of Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Manual, 2003 Edition

cc: District Superintendents
Bus Manufacturers' and Dealers' Representatives
J.C. Bowman
Jennifer Rippner
Cathy Wooley-Brown