

Office of the General Counsel
Walter J. Harvey, General Counsel

SUBJECT: **FINAL READING: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 7460, CONSERVATION OF NATURAL AND MATERIAL RESOURCES**

COMMITTEE: **FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: **EFFECTIVE & SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONAL PRACTICES**

Consistent with the Board's responsibility to review and amend policies to conform to legislation and updated District practices, and pursuant to Board action, authorization is requested to amend School Board Policy 7460, *Conservation of Natural and Material Resources*. Policy 7460 is proposed for amendment in response to December 2025 Item H-11, "Waste-Cost Realignment and Efficiency Review," proffered by Board Member Luisa Santos, which directed the Superintendent to, among other things, initiate rulemaking, if deemed necessary and as appropriate, to require that resource efficiency cost savings be reinvested back into a fund that can be utilized for clearly defined additional resource efficiency efforts, and to annually review waste management efficiency processes.

As reported to the Board in March 2026, amendments to Policy 7460 in response to this item are appropriate. The policy would be revised to provide that resource efficiency cost savings must be reinvested into a designated fund that must be utilized for clearly defined additional resource efficiency efforts, such as those outlined in the policy, unless it is not financially feasible, and that the effectiveness of waste management programs must be reviewed annually. The proposed revisions align with § 1013.23, Florida Statutes, which provides that it is "the policy of this state to encourage school districts ... to invest 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, to build, operate, maintain, or renovate educational facilities in such a manner so as to minimize energy consumption and maximize energy savings," and that it is "further the policy of this state to encourage school districts ... to reinvest any energy savings resulting from energy conservation measures into additional energy conservation efforts."

The Notice of Intended Action was published in the Miami Herald on April 27, 2026, and posted in various places for public information and mailed to various organizations representing persons affected by the adopted and amended Board policies and individuals requesting notification. The time to request a hearing or protest the adoption and amendment of these policies has elapsed.

These policy amendments were drafted in collaboration with and reviewed by the Superintendent, Cabinet, and District staff. The Notice of Intended Action and policies with strikethroughs and underlines are attached.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, amend School Board Policy 7460, *Conservation of Natural and Material Resources*, and authorize the Superintendent to file the policy with The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, to be effective June 17, 2026.

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, announced on April 22, 2026, its intention to amend Board Policy 7460, *Conservation of Natural and Material Resources*, at its meeting of June 17, 2026.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Board Policy 7460, *Conservation of Natural and Material Resources*, is proposed for amendment in response to Board action directing an annual review of waste management effectiveness and resource efficiency cost savings reinvestment.

SUMMARY: Board Policy 7460, *Conservation of Natural and Material Resources*, is proposed for amendment in response to Board action to provide that resource efficiency cost savings must be reinvested into a designated fund that must be utilized for clearly defined additional resource efficiency efforts, such as those outlined in the policy, unless it is not financially feasible, and that the effectiveness of waste management programs must be reviewed annually.

SPECIFIC LEGAL AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH RULEMAKING IS AUTHORIZED: Fla. Stat. ss. 1001.32(2); 1001.41(1)–(2); 1001.42(11)–(12); 1001.51(4), (11).

LAWS IMPLEMENTED INTERPRETED OR MADE SPECIFIC: Fla. Stat. ss. 1001.51; 1003.42(2)(n); 1013.23.

IF REQUESTED, A HEARING WILL BE HELD DURING SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF June 17, 2026, which begins at 1:00 p.m., in the School Board Auditorium, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132. Persons requesting such a hearing or who wish to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided in Section 120.54(1), F.S., must do so in writing by May 19, 2026, to the Superintendent, Room 912, at the same address.

ANY PERSON WHO DECIDES TO APPEAL THE DECISION made by the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, with respect to this action will need to ensure the preparation of a verbatim record of the proceedings, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. (Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes)

COPIES OF THE PROPOSED AMENDED POLICY are available at cost to the public for inspection and copying in the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.



Book	Policy Manual
Section	June 17, 2026 - <u>Final</u> Reading
Title	CONSERVATION OF NATURAL AND MATERIAL RESOURCES
Code	7460
Status	<u>Final</u> Reading

7460 - **CONSERVATION OF NATURAL AND MATERIAL RESOURCES**

Conservation of natural and material resources refers to the wise use and protection of the Earth's resources to ensure their long-term availability, which includes, but is not limited to, minimizing waste, preventing destruction, and promoting practices to safeguard these resources for present and future generations. Conservation aims to strike a balance between meeting current needs and preserving resources for the future.

The District is committed to achieving Districtwide resiliency by promoting efforts that include environmental stewardship, resource conservation, and educational initiatives that support a safe future for all. The Superintendent shall develop and implement both immediate and long-term plans to conserve natural and material resources. The administrative procedures established shall be followed by all employees and strongly supported both in the educational program and in staff interactions with students.

Efforts shall be aligned with the District's strategic plan and other Districtwide sustainability conservation goals, optimizing awareness and participation at all levels of the organization, and promoting the following:

A. Resource Efficiency

Enhance measures to reduce the consumption of water and energy in all District facilities.

B. Effective Waste Management

Strengthen waste diversion programs to significantly reduce waste

production and annually review the effectiveness of these programs.

C. Sustainable Transportation

Expand the use of combustion free vehicles and support infrastructure improvements for healthy transportation options.

D. Engaging Education

Deepen standards-aligned environmental literacy in existing curriculum and promote community participation in conservation practices.

E. Strategic Procurement

Focus on sourcing high-quality products and services that enhance efficiency and long-term cost savings, and reinvest cost savings into a designated fund that must be utilized for clearly defined additional resource efficiency efforts, such as those outlined in this policy, unless it is not financially feasible.

F. Expansion of Renewable Energy

Increase the integration of renewable energy sources across all District facilities to reduce the District's footprint and prepare for natural disasters that may impact the District's infrastructure.

Effective 07.01.2011

Revised 07.24.2024

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References:

F.S. 1013.23

Adoption Date: 05.11.2011