AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE OR LEASE VEHICLES

The District may purchase school motor vehicles through the comptroller or through competitive bidding. *Education Code 34.001(a)* [See CH]

Each contract proposed to be made by the District for the purchase or lease of one or more school buses must be submitted to competitive bidding when the contract is valued at $20,000 or more. *Education Code 44.031(l)*

When a contract for the purchase of school buses is valued at $20,000 or more, the contract must be made either through competitive bidding or by purchasing the buses through the comptroller. *Atty. Gen. Op. LO-98-063 (1998)*

PAYMENT

If the Board is unable to pay immediately for a vehicle, it may, subject to the provisions of law, issue time warrants in amounts sufficient to make such payments. *Education Code 34.005*

The Board may issue bonds to purchase new school buses. *Education Code 45.001* [See CCA]

NEW VAN PURCHASES OR LEASES

A school system may not purchase or lease a new 15-passenger van if it will be used significantly by, or on behalf of, the school system to transport preprimary, primary, or secondary school students to or from school or an event related to school, unless the 15-passenger van complies with the motor vehicle standards prescribed for school buses and multi-function school activity buses under federal law. This provision does not apply in some limited circumstances, including the purchase or lease of a 15-passenger van under a contract executed before August 10, 2005, the date of enactment of this provision. *49 U.S.C. 30112*

MAINTENANCE

School buses operated by the District shall be maintained and inspected as required by the Transportation Code. *Trans. Code Chapter 548*

CONTRACTS FOR USE, ACQUISITION, OR LEASE OF SCHOOL BUS

The Board may contract with any person for use, acquisition, lease, or lease with option or options to purchase school buses, if the Board determines such a contract to be economically advantageous to the District. Such a contract may have any lawful term of not less than two or more than ten years. Competitive bidding requirements apply to each contract for the purchase or lease of a school bus, including a lease with an option to purchase, when the contract is valued at $20,000 or more. A school bus that is leased or leased with an option to purchase must meet or exceed safety standards set out in Education Code 34.002. *Education Code 34.009, 44.031(l)* [See CH]

REGISTRATION

District-owned vehicles used exclusively for the District are exempt from the state registration fee; however, they shall be registered in

accordance with general statutes relating to motor vehicle registration. *Trans. Code 502.202*

IDENTIFICATION

Exempt license plates shall not be issued to vehicles unless the applicant for registration certifies in writing that the name of the District is printed on each side of the vehicle, in letters that are at least two inches high or in an emblem that is at least 100 square inches in size. The letters or emblem must be of a color sufficiently different from the body of the vehicle to be clearly legible from a distance of 100 feet. *Trans. Code 502.2015*

MAINTENANCE

School buses operated by the District shall be maintained and inspected as required by the Transportation Code. *Trans. Code Chapter 548*

SCHOOL BUS ADVERTISING

The exterior of a school bus may not bear advertising or another paid announcement directed at the public if the advertising or announcement distracts from the effectiveness of required safety-warning equipment. A school bus that violates this section or rules adopted under this section shall be placed out of service until it complies. *Trans. Code 547.701(d)*

ADVERTISING RULES

The District may allow advertisements on school buses in accordance with rules adopted by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) at 37 TAC 14.61–14.65. The rules apply to all school buses used to transport preprimary, primary, and secondary public school students. *37 TAC 14.61*

"ADVERTISEMENT"

For purposes of this policy, "advertisement" means any communication brought to the attention of the public by paid announcement or in return for public recognition in connection with an event or offer or sale of a product or service, except for a single-line listing of the District name and/or a school or manufacturer logo approved by the Texas Department of Public Safety. *37 TAC 14.1(1)*

MATERIAL AND LOCATION

Advertisements must be of a material and in a location specified in the rules. *37 TAC 14.62–14.64*

ANNUAL NOTICE

By September 1, districts involved in an advertising program shall provide to the School Bus Transportation Safety Unit at DPS written notification of the number of school buses operated by or for the District that display exterior advertising or another paid announcement. *37 TAC 14.65(a)(1), (b)*

DELIVERY OF NOTICE

Notices to DPS may be delivered by facsimile at (512) 424-2238, electronic mail at sbt@txdps.state.tx.us, or mailed to the School Bus Transportation Safety Unit, Texas Department of Public Safety, Box 4087, Austin, TX 78773-0252. *37 TAC 14.65(d)*

NONSCHOOL USE

The Board may contract with nonschool organizations for use of school buses. *Education Code 34.010(a)*

The Board may provide services for the maintenance and operation of buses used by nonschool organizations in accordance with the contracts for such use. *Education Code 34.010*

SALE OF BUSES

If the District so requests, the comptroller shall dispose of a school bus, but the District is not required to dispose of a bus through the comptroller. *Education Code 34.006*