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May 1, 2020

Mr. Jim Beekman, Transportation General Manager
Hillsborough County School District
9455 Harney Road
Thonotosassa, Florida 33592

Dear Mr. Beekman:

The Florida Department of Education received your March 3, 2020, request to install alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers on Hillsborough School District's buses to improve the health and safety of public school students.

As provided on pages 3 and 4 of the [2020 Florida School Bus Specifications Manual](#), new technology and equipment are acceptable for use in all vehicles if the items:

1. Do not compromise the effectiveness or integrity of any major safety system.
2. Do not diminish the safety of the bus interior.
3. Do not create additional risk to students who are boarding or exiting the bus or are in or near the school bus loading zone.
4. Do not require undue additional activity and/or responsibility for the driver.
5. Generally, increase efficiency and/or safety of the bus, generally provide for a safer or more pleasant experience for the occupants and pedestrians in the vicinity of the bus and/or generally assist the driver and make his/her many tasks easier to perform."

Hand sanitizer dispensers are acceptable under these provisions; however, under no circumstance should the installation of such equipment cause any instance of non-compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, National School Bus Specifications or Florida School Bus Specifications, or compromise student safety.

For further assistance, please contact Robert Manspeaker at Robert.Manspeaker@fldoe.org or 850-245-9795.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Pridgeon

SP/rm

cc: Addison Davis, Superintendent
Mark Eggers, Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Robert Manspeaker, Director of School Transportation

Suzanne Pridgeon
Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations