

New Policy and Reporting Requirements

Major Legislation

SB 7030 – Implementation of Legislative Recommendations of the MSD High School Public Safety Commission

School Board Rules/Policies

Section 4 - s. 943.082 - School Safety Awareness Program - Requires school boards to promote FortifyFL by advertising it on the school district's website, in newsletters, on school campuses, and in school publications, by installing it on all mobile devices issued to students and by bookmarking the website on all computer devices issued to students.

Section 9 – s. 1003.25 – Procedures for Maintenance and Transfer of Student Records - Requires transfer of records to occur within 3 school days.

Section 10 – s. 1006.07 - District School Board Duties Relating to Student Discipline and School Safety

(1) **Control of Students** – Requires each student at the time of initial registration for school to note previous school expulsions, arrests resulting in a charge, juvenile justice action, and any corresponding referral to mental health services by the school district.

(4) **Emergency Drills; Emergency Procedures** – Clarifies that drills for active shooter and hostage situations be conducted in accordance with developmentally appropriate and age-appropriate procedures.

Requires **school safety specialist** to:

- Review district policies for compliance with state law and rules, including district's timely and accurate submission of school environmental safety incident report to DOE (SESIR).
- In collaboration with appropriate public safety agencies, as term defined in s. 365.171, by October 1 of each year, conduct school security risk assessment at each public school using FSSAT. Based on assessment findings, safety specialist shall provide recommendations to the superintendent and school board which identifies strategies that school board should implement to address the findings.
- Requires each school board and charter school governing board to adopt active assailant response plan. By October 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, each school superintendent and charter school principal must certify that all school personnel have received annual training on procedures contained in the active assailant response plan for the applicable school district or charter school.

(7) **Threat Assessment Teams** - Modifies requirements for threat assessment teams. Policies must include, among other provisions, procedures for behavioral threat assessments in compliance with the instrument developed pursuant to s. 1001.212(12).

Upon availability of behavioral threat assessment instrument developed pursuant to s. 1001.212(12), the threat assessment team must use that instrument.

(9) **School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting** - Requires each school board to adopt policies to ensure the accurate and timely reporting of incidents related to school safety and discipline.

Section 11 – s. 1006.12 - Safe-School Officers at Each Public School - Each school board and superintendent shall partner with law enforcement agencies or security agencies to establish or assign one or more safe-school officers at each school facility within the district, including charter schools. A school board must collaborate with charter school governing boards to facilitate charter school access to all safe-school officer options available under this section. The district may implement any combination of options (1-4) to best meet the needs of the district and charter school.

If a district school board, through its adopted policies, procedures, or actions, denies a charter school access to any safe-school officer pursuant to this section, the school district must assign a school resource officer or school safety officer to the charter school. Under such circumstances, the charter school's share of the costs of the school resource officer or school safety officer may not exceed the safe school allocation funds provided to the charter school pursuant to s. 1011.62(15) and shall be retained by the school district.

Section 12 – s. 1006.13 - Policy of Zero Tolerance for Crime and Victimization

(1) Requires school boards to promote a safe and supportive learning environment by protecting students and staff from conduct that poses a threat to schools safety. Previously the language was "serious" threat. A threat assessment team may continue to use alternative to expulsion or referral to law enforcement agencies to address disruptive behavior. Zero-tolerance policies may not be rigorously applied to petty acts of misconduct but the reference to misdemeanors, including, but not limited to, minor fights or disturbances is deleted.

(2) Requires each district school board to adopt a zero tolerance policy that defines criteria for reporting to law enforcement any act that poses a threat to school safety; defines acts that pose a threat versus a serious threat to school safety, and defines petty acts of misconduct which are not a threat to school safety and do not require consultation with law enforcement.

(4) Agreements among districts, sheriff's office and local police department must be entered into for acts that pose a threat versus a serious threat to school safety whether committed by a student or adult, are reported to law enforcement.

The agreements must include the role of SROs and a procedure requiring school personnel to consult with SROs concerning appropriate delinquent acts and crimes.

Language stating that zero tolerance policies do not require the reporting of petty acts of misconduct and misdemeanors to a law enforcement agency is removed.

The principal must notify all school personnel as to their responsibilities regarding incident reporting, that acts which pose a threat to school safety and crime properly reported to the principal, or designee, and that the disposition of the incident is properly documented.

Section 13 – s. 1006.1493 - Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT)

Specifies FSSAT must be the primary physical site security assessment tool as revised and required by OSS.

Section 15 – s. 1011.61 - Funds for Operation of Schools.

(16) **Mental Health Assistance Allocation** – Plan requirements modified and bill provides that policies and procedures, including contracts with service providers, must ensure that students who are referred to a school-based or community-based mental health service provider for mental health screening for the identification of mental health concerns and ensure that the assessment of students at risk for mental health disorders occurs within 15 days of referral. School-based mental health services must be initiated within 15 days after identification and assessment, and support by community-based mental health service providers for students who are referred for school based mental health services must be initiated within 30 days after the school or district makes a referral.

District Reports

Section 15 – s. 1011.62 – Funds for Operation of Schools

(15) **Safe Schools Allocation** - Requires one-third of the funds be allocated to school districts based on the most recent official FDLE Florida Crime Index. The remaining two-thirds must be allocated based on each school district's proportionate share of the state's total UWFTE. Each school district must report to DOE by October 15 that all public schools within the school district have completed the school security risk assessment using the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool developed pursuant to s. 1006.1493. If a district school board is required by s. 1006.12 to assign a school resource officer or school safety officer to a charter school, the charter school's share of costs for such officer may not exceed the amount of funds allocated to the charter school under this subsection

Beginning September 30, 2019, and annually thereafter, each district must submit a report to DOE on its program outcomes and expenditures which include, among existing criteria, the number of:

- Students who are referred to either school-based or community-based providers.
- Students who receive either school-based or community based interventions.
- School-based and community-based mental health providers, including licensure type, paid for from funds provided through the allocation.

State Board of Education Rules

Section 7 – s. 1001.212 – Office of Safe Schools

(6) Coordinate with FDLE to provide a centralized integrated data repository and data analytics resource to improve access to data from specified data sources by August 1, 2019.

Centralized integrated data repository – DOE shall only allow access to from the source agencies in accordance with rules adopted by the respective source agencies and the requirements of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Justice Information Services security policy, where applicable.

(9) School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting - The State Board of Education shall adopt rules establishing the requirements for the school environmental safety incident report.

Section 9 – 1003.25 – Procedures for Maintenance and Transfer of Student Records – Requires the transfer of records to occur within 3 school days. SBE already has rules and may need to amend.

Section 10 – s. 1006.07 – District School Board Duties Relating to Student Discipline and School Safety –

SBE must adopt rules establishing the requirements for the school environment safety incident report.

Reports - Department of Education

Section 5 – s. 1001.10 - Commissioner of Education; General Powers and Duties - Requires the Commissioner to review the report of the School Hardening and Harm Mitigation Workgroup regarding hardening and harm mitigation strategies and recommendations submitted by the Office of Safe Schools

Section 7 – s. 1001.212 – Office of Safe Schools

(1) Requires OSS to provide **annual training** to appropriate school district and charter school personnel on the proper assessment of physical site security and completion of the school security risk assessment tool.

(6) Requires OSS to coordinate with FDLE to **provide centralized integrated data repository/data analytics resources** to improve access to information by August 1, 2019.

Review school district policies and procedures for compliance with state law and rules, including the district's timely and accurate submission of school environmental safety incident reports to DOE.

(7) Requires OSS to provide data to support the evaluation of **mental health services** pursuant to s. 1004.44.

(8) Requires OSS to provide **technical assistance** to school districts and charter school governing boards for school environmental safety incident reporting. The office shall collect data through school environmental safety incident reports on incidents involving any person which occur on school premises, on school transportation, and at off-campus, school sponsored events. The office shall review and evaluate school district reports to ensure compliance with reporting requirements.

(11) Requires OSS to convene a **School Hardening and Harm Mitigation Workgroup** composed of individuals with subject matter expertise on school campus hardening best practices. Based on this review of school safety best practices, by August 1, 2020, the workgroup shall submit a report to the executive director of the office which includes, at a minimum, a prioritized list for the implementation of school campus hardening and harm mitigation strategies and the estimated costs of and timeframes for implementation of the strategies by school districts and charter schools. OSS then submits to the Commissioner the workgroup's report and recommendations regarding procedures.

(12) Requires OSS by August 1, 2019, to develop a **standardized, statewide behavioral threat assessment instrument** for use by all public schools, including charter schools.

By August 1, 2020, **evaluate** each school district’s and charter school governing board’s behavioral threat assessment procedures for compliance with this subsection.

(13) Requires OSS to establish the **Statewide Threat Assessment Database Workgroup**, composed of members appointed by DOE, to complement the work of DOE and FDLE associated with the centralized integrated data repository and data analytics resources initiative and make recommendations regarding the development of a statewide threat assessment database. By December 31, 2019, the workgroup shall provide a report to the office with recommendations.

(15) Requires OSS to **annually publish** a list detailing the total number of safe-school officers in this state, etc.

Section 13 – s. 1006.1493 - Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT)

Security consulting firm for FSSAT must review recommendations of the School Hardening and Harm Mitigation Workgroup to address physical security measures identified by FSSAT.

OSS must make FSSAT available no later than May 1 of each year. OSS must provide annual training to each district’s school safety specialist and other appropriate district personnel on assessing physical site security and completing the FSSAT.

SB 7070 – K-12 Education

School Board Rules/Policies

Section 19 – s. 1012.73 - Florida Best and Brightest Teachers Program-

The bill establishes the following best and brightest teacher awards:

Recruitment awards for newly hired teachers who are content experts, based on criteria established by DOE, in mathematics, science, computer science, reading, or civics.

Retention awards for teachers rated as highly effective or effective the preceding year and teach in a school for 2 consecutive school years, including the current year, which has improved an average of 3 percentage points or more in the percentage of total possible points achieved for determining school grades over the prior 3 years.

Recognition awards for instructional personnel (not just teachers) rated as “effective” or “highly effective” and selected by the school principal based on performance criteria and policies adopted by the district school board. Recognition awards must be provided from funds remaining under the allocation provided in s. 1011.62(18) after the payment of all teacher recruitment and retention awards and principal awards authorized under this section and the General Appropriations Act.

District Reports

Section 6 – s. 1002.394 - Family Empowerment Scholarship Program

(11) Scholarship Funding and Payment – The scholarship is established for up to 18,000 students annually beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, the number of students may increase by 0.25 percent of the state’s total public school student enrollment.

The school district must report all students attending private school and such students are reported separately from other students reported for FEFP. Following notification of participants, DOE must make quarterly transfers from general revenue funds of only the amount calculated for the scholarship from the district's total funding entitlement under the FEFP.

State Board of Education Rules

Section 6 – s. 1002.394 - Family Empowerment Scholarship Program -

(14) Rules - SBE must adopt rules.

Section 18 – s. 1012.59 – Certification Fees -

Requires DOE to adopt rules that specify an examination fee for the following:

- Initial registration for first-time test takers.
- Retake of the full battery of subtests of an examination, if applicable. Retake fee for the full battery of subtests may not exceed the fee for initial registration.
- Retake for each subsection of an examination. Retake fee for each subtest must be prorated based on the number of subtests within the examination.

Reports - Community School Grant Program

Section 11 – s. 1003.64 - Creates the Community School Grant Program -

(4) Reporting.—Beginning with September 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the center shall publish on its website information on each community organization receiving a grant from the center to implement the community school model. The information must include:

The amount of grant funds provided through the center for each participating school and the amount of matching funds provided by the community organization for each year the community organization has received a grant for that school.

The long-term partners who have entered into a memorandum of understanding for implementing the community school model.

A description of the services and community engagement activities provided through the community school model.

The number of students, families, and community members served through the community school model.

The academic progress of students enrolled at the public school, including student progression data, attendance, behavior, and student achievement and learning gains on statewide, standardized assessments.

HB 7071 – Workforce Education

School Board Rules/Policies

Section 10 – s. 1001.43 – Supplemental powers and duties of district school board –

(14) Recognition of Academic Achievement – Encourages school board to adopt policies and procedures to celebrate the academic and workforce achievement of students. Modifies provisions of “Academic Scholarship Signing Day” and establishes “College and Career Decision Day.”

Section 13 – s. 1003.415 – General Requirements for Middle Grades Promotion –

The bill requires completion of a course in career and education planning for middle school students to be promoted to high school. New rules and/or the Student Progression Plan will need to be adopted/modified.

Section 14 – s. 1003.4282 - Requirements for a Standard High School Diploma

The requirements for a standard high school diploma are modified in order to substitute computer science credits for specified math or science credits. In addition, beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, all school districts must offer a financial literacy course consisting of at least one-half credit as an elective. Finally, the bill establishes a Career and Technical Education Graduation Pathway (CTE) Option for the 2019-2020 school year. New rules and/or the Student Progression Plan will need to be adopted/modified to incorporate all of the new provisions. The bill specifically requires that each district school board must incorporate the CTE pathway option to graduation in the student progression plan.

Section 15 – s. 1003.4285 – Standard High School Diploma Designations

Effective upon this act becoming law – the mathematics component of the Scholar designation is modified to include an equally rigorous course in Algebra II. A new rule and/or the Student Progression Plan will need to be adopted/modified to incorporate this new provision.

Section 22 – s. 1006.22 - Safety and Health of Students Being Transported

The bill authorizes school boards to use motor vehicles other than school buses when the transportation is for trips to and from school sites to allow students to participate in a career education program that is not offered at the high school in which such students are enrolled but is not for customary transportation between a student’s resident and such sites. A new rule may need to be adopted to implement this provision.

Section 26 – s. 1007.261 – Computer Science and Technology Instruction

High school students must be provided opportunities to take computer science courses and earn technology-related industry certifications to satisfy high school graduation requirements. Computer science courses and technology-related industry certifications that are identified as eligible for meeting mathematics or science requirements for high school graduation must be included in the Course Code Directory.

Section 34 – s. 1012.57 – Certification of adjunct educators

(6) Each school district shall:

- Post requirements on its website for the issuance of an adjunct teaching certificate, which must specify the subject area test through which an applicant demonstrates subject area mastery.
- Annually report to DOE the number of adjunct teaching certificates issued for part-time teaching positions and full-time teaching positions pursuant to this section.

District Agreements/Reports

Section 24 – s. 1007.233 - Career Pathways Agreement

The bill provides that each career center and Florida College System with overlapping service areas must annually submit to DOE, on or before May 1, a regional career pathways agreement for each certificate program offered by the career center that is aligned with an associate degree offered by the Florida College in the service area. Each career pathways agreement must guarantee college credit toward an aligned associate degree program for students who graduate from a career center with a career or technical certificate and meet specified requirements in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Regional agreements may not award less credit than the amount guaranteed through existing statewide articulation agreements.

Section 27 – s. 1007.271 – Dual enrollment program

The bill provides that each career center must enter into an agreement with each high school in any district it serves. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, the agreement must be completed annually and submitted by the career center to DOE by August 1.

Section 32 – s. 1011.80 – Funds for operation of workforce education programs

Each school district and Florida College System institution receiving state appropriations for workforce education programs must maintain adequate and accurate records, including a system to record school district workforce education funding and expenditures, to maintain the separation of postsecondary workforce education expenditures and secondary workforce education expenditures. These records must be submitted to the Department of Education in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education. Each career pathways agreement must outline certificate program completion requirements and any licenses or industry certifications that must be earned before enrolling in an associate degree program. Articulated college credit must be awarded in accordance with the agreement upon initial enrollment in the associate degree program.

Section 33 – s. 1011.802 – Creates the Florida Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program

The department shall give priority to apprenticeship programs with demonstrated regional demand. Grant funds may be used for instructional equipment, supplies, personnel, student services, and other expenses associated with the creation or expansion of an apprenticeship program. Grant funds may not be used for recurring instructional costs or for indirect costs. Grant recipients must submit quarterly reports in a format prescribed by the department.

Authorizes SBE to adopt rules to administer this section.

State Board of Education Rules

Section 33 – s. 1011.802 – Creates the Florida Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program

Authorizes SBE to adopt rules to administer this section.

DOE Reports

Section 3 – s. 446.032 – General duties of the department for apprenticeship training

By September 1 of each year, DOE must publish an annual report on apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs. The report must be published on the department's website and contain specified minimum information.

Section 14 – s. 1003.4282 - Requirements for a Standard High School Diploma

Career Education Courses that Satisfy High School Credit Requirements – Current law requires DOE to develop, for SBE approval, career education courses that allow students to earn credit in both career education and courses required for high school graduation. The bill requires the SBE to determine at least biennially if sufficient academic standards are covered to warrant the award of academic credit, including satisfaction of assessment requirements. In addition, the instructional methodology used in these courses must comprise authentic projects, problems, and activities for contextual academic learning and emphasize workplace skills identified under s. 445.06, F.S., (Florida Ready to Work Certification Program).

Section 16 – s. 1003.491 – Florida Career and Professional Education Act

The Commissioner must conduct an annual review of K-12 and postsecondary career and technical education offerings, in consultation with the Department of Economic Opportunity, CareerSource Florida, Inc., leaders of business and industry, the Board of Governors, the Florida College System, school districts, and other education stakeholders, to determine the alignment of existing offerings with employer demand, postsecondary degree or certificate programs, and professional industry certifications. The review must identify career and technical education offerings that are linked to occupations that are in high demand by employers, require high-level skills, and provide middle-level and high level wages.

Using the findings from the annual review, the Commissioner must phase out career and technical education offerings that are not aligned with the needs of employers or do not provide program completers with a middle-wage or high-wage occupation and encourage school districts and colleges to offer programs that are not offered currently.

Section 28 – s. 1008.37 – Postsecondary feedback of information to high schools

The bill modifies the requirement that the Commissioner report, by high school, to the SBE, BOG and the Legislature, no later than April 30th rather than November 30th of each year, the number of prior year Florida high school graduates who enrolled for the first time in public postsecondary education during the summer, fall, or spring term of the previous academic year.

General Legislation

HB 1279 – School District Accountability – Enacted in 2018; July 1, 2019 effective date

Implementation of this bill will require several rule and policy changes. Specific attention should be paid to the following sections, but the entire bill needs to be reviewed for additional policy implications.

Section 1. Amends s. 11.45, F.S., – Definitions; duties; authorities; reports; rules. The bill requires the Auditor General to contact each school board with the findings and recommendations contained within the Auditor General’s previous operational audit report. The bill requires the school board to provide information on evidence of initiation of corrective action within 45 days after the date it is requested by the Auditor General and evidence of completion of corrective action within 180 days after the date it is requested by the Auditor General. If the school board fails to comply within the required timeframe, the Auditor General must notify the Legislative Auditing Committee.

Section 5. Amends s. 1001.39, F.S., – District school board member members; travel expenses. The bill provides that for school board members, any travel outside the district that exceeds \$500 requires prior approval by the school board to confirm that such travel is for official business of the district and complies with SBE rules. Any request for travel outside the state must include an itemized list detailing all anticipated travel expenses, including, but not limited to, the anticipated costs of all means of travel, lodging, and subsistence. Immediately preceding a request, the public must have an opportunity to speak on the specific travel agenda item.

Section 6. Amends s. 1001.395, F.S., – District School board members; compensation. The bill limits school board member salaries to the district’s beginning teacher salary.

Section 7. Amends s. 1001.42, F.S., – Powers and duties of district school board. The bill expands standards of ethical conduct to all administrative personnel.

An individual board member may request and shall receive any proposed, tentative, and official budget documents, including all supporting and background information.

The bill requires a school board, in the case of a school district receiving annual federal, state, and local funds in excess of \$500 million, to employ an internal auditor. The scope of the internal auditor must not be restricted and must include every functional and program area of the school system.

In addition to other duties, the internal auditor must conduct a comprehensive risk assessment of all areas of the school system every 5 years, and other audits and reviews as the school board directs.

Any person responsible for furnishing or producing any book, record, paper, document, data, or sufficient information necessary to conduct a proper audit or examination which the internal auditor is authorized by law to perform is subject to the provisions of s. 11.47(3) and (4), Florida Statutes. These provisions provide that an individual who fails or refuses to furnish specific information is guilty of a first degree misdemeanor and an officer is subject to removal from office.

Section 8. Amends s. 1010.20, F.S., – Cost accounting and reporting for school districts. The bill requires districts to report detailed information by school and district relating to total operating costs and expenditures for classroom instruction. The bill requires the Department of Education

(DOE) to develop a web-based fiscal transparency tool that identifies public schools and districts that produce high academic achievement based on the ratio of classroom instruction expenditures to total expenditures. The results must be displayed in an easy to use format that enable the user to compare performance among public schools and districts.

Section 9. Amends s. 1010.30, F.S., – Audits required. The bill requires an audit overview if there is a significant “deficiency or material weakness” rather than just a “finding” in an audit. The audit overview must describe the corrective action to be taken and a timeline for completion of such action.

Section 11. Amends s. 1011.03, F.S., – Public hearings; budget to be submitted to Department of Education. The bill repeals the advertisement requirement relating to classroom expenditures.

Section 12. Amends s. 1011.035, F.S., – School district fiscal transparency. The bill requires for the development of graphical representations for each school and school district of specific information relating to costs per student. The language also requires a link to a web-based fiscal transparency tool developed by DOE to enable taxpayers to evaluate the financial efficiency of the district and school.

Section 13. Amends s. 1011.051, F.S., – Guidelines for general funds. The bill requires the superintendent to reduce the district’s administrative expenditures in proportion to the reduction in the general fund’s ending balance or the reduction in student enrollment, whichever is greater if the ending fund balance falls below 3 percent.

Section 14. Amends s. 1011.06, F.S., – Expenditures from District and other funds. The bill provides that the school board must be in compliance with the requirements limiting expenditures for travel outside the district and cell phone service in order to exceed an amount budgeted by function and object. In addition, the expenditure must be approved by amending the budget at the next scheduled public meeting. The school board must provide a full explanation of any amendments at the next public meeting.

Section 15. Amends s. 1011.09, F.S., – Expenditure of funds by district school board. The bill provides that if financial conditions in s. 1011.051, F.S., exist (ending fund balance projected to fall below 3 or 2 percent) the school board may not make expenditures for out of district travel or cell phone service while the financial conditions exist. Current law was limited to the 2009-2010 fiscal year and for out of state travel.

Section 16. Amends s. 1011.10, F.S., – Penalty. The bill provides that if any of the conditions identified in s. 218.503(1) exist (reproduced below), the salary of each board member and superintendent must be withheld until the conditions are corrected. This penalty does not apply to a school board member or superintendent elected or appointed within 1 year after the identification of the conditions if he or she did not participate in the approval or preparation of the final budget adopted before the identification of such conditions.

The conditions are as follows:

(1) Local governmental entities, charter schools, charter technical career centers, and district school boards shall be subject to review and oversight by the Governor, the charter school sponsor, the charter technical career center sponsor, or the Commissioner of Education, as appropriate, when any one of the following conditions occurs:

(a) Failure within the same fiscal year in which due to pay short-term loans or failure to make bond debt service or other long-term debt payments when due, as a result of a lack of funds.

(b) Failure to pay uncontested claims from creditors within 90 days after the claim is presented, as a result of a lack of funds.

(c) Failure to transfer at the appropriate time, due to lack of funds:

1. Taxes withheld on the income of employees; or

2. Employer and employee contributions for:

A Federal social security; or

B Any pension, retirement, or benefit plan of an employee.

(d) Failure for one pay period to pay, due to lack of funds:

1. Wages and salaries owed to employees; or

2. Retirement benefits owed to former employees.

Section 17. Amends s. 1011.60, F.S., – Minimum requirements of the Florida Education Finance Program. The bill repeals Minimum Classroom Expenditure Requirements.

Section 18. Repeals s. 1011.64, F.S., – School district minimum classroom expenditure requirements. The bill repeals the section.

Section 19. Amends s. 1012.23, F.S., – School district personnel policies. The language would prohibit a school superintendent from appointing or employing a relative as defined in s. 112.3135, F.S., to work under his or her direct supervision. The Commission on Ethics must investigate any alleged violations. The current language applies to school board members. These limitations do not apply to employees appointed or employed before the election or appointment of a school board member or district school superintendent.

A relative is defined as:(d) “Relative,” for purposes of this section only, with respect to a public official, means an individual who is related to the public official as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, or half-sister.

HB 213 – Immunization Registry

The bill requires school districts and private schools to have a policy that requires each student to have a certification of immunizations on file with the state’s immunization registry. However, the school must still accept the DOH-approved immunization form if the child’s parent has opted out of the immunization registry.

The bill requires each school board to develop policies to screen students for scoliosis at the appropriate age.

SB 7014 – Government Accountability

The bill modifies the membership and renames the audit committee as the auditor selection committee. Rules may need to be adopted to implement these provisions.

The bill amends s. 1001.42, F.S., relating to the powers and duties of school boards. The bill requires the internal auditor to determine the adequacy of internal controls designed to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse. Rules may need to be adopted to implement this provision.

Section 1010.01, F.S., relating to uniform records and accounts is amended to add that each school district must establish and maintain internal controls. Rules may need to be adopted to implement this provision. The controls are designed to:

- Prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse as defined in s. 11.45(1), Florida Statutes.
- Promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws, rules, contracts, grant agreements, and best practices.
- Support economical and efficient operations.
- Ensure reliability of financial records and reports.
- Safeguard assets.

HB 563 – Unemployment Compensation

The bill provides that an individual may not be disqualified from receiving reemployment assistance if he or she voluntarily leaves work and is able to prove that the discontinuation of employment is a direct result of circumstances related to domestic violence.

HB 741 – Anti-Semitism

The bill amends s. 1000.05, F.S., relating to discrimination against students and employees in the Florida K-20 public education system. Discrimination based on religion is added to the list of classes for which discrimination is prohibited. Rules may need to be adopted to implement these new provisions.

SB 292 – Education

The bill provides that a district school board may not prohibit a student from lawfully wearing the dress uniform of any of the Armed Forces of the United States or of the state at his or her graduation ceremony. A rule may need to be adopted to implement this provision.

SB 620 – Military-Friendly Initiatives (not signed by Governor)

Section 1003.05, F.S., relating to assistance to transitioning students from military families is amended to provide that a student whose parent is transferred or is pending transfer to a military installation within a school district while on active military duty pursuant to an official military order must be considered a resident of the school district for purposes of enrollment when the order is submitted to the school district and must be provided preferential treatment in the controlled open enrollment process of the school district. Rules may need to be adopted to implement these new provisions.

SB 182 – Medical Use of Marijuana

The bill amends various sections of the Florida Statutes related to the medical use of marijuana which may require an amendment to various policies.

SB 1418 – Mental Health (not signed by Governor)

The bill requires mental health professionals, including school psychologists, to release information from a patient’s clinical record and/or disclose patient communications to the extent necessary to warn law enforcement of a threat of serious bodily injury or death made by a patient or client. Law enforcement is required to notify potential victims of the threat. Such disclosure of confidential communications may not be the basis of legal action or any civil or criminal liability against these psychiatrists, psychologists, and mental health care professionals.

The bill requires DOE, by July 1, 2019 and in consultation with the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention and suicide prevention experts, to add a suicide screening instrument among the materials used for training in youth suicide awareness, suicide prevention, and suicide screening for instructional personnel in elementary, middle, and high schools.

The bill provides criteria for a school to be considered a “Suicide Prevention Certified School” and requires a report to DOE.

Rules may need to be adopted to implement these new provisions.

SB 838 - Public Records/Mental Health Treatment and Services

The bill creates new exemptions from the public records inspection and access requirements of the state constitution and public records statutes. The bill makes confidential and exempt pleadings, orders, and personal identifying information on Baker Act proceedings. The information may be disclosed upon request to certain persons involved in the proceedings, certain agencies, or when directed by the court.

Rules may need to be adopted to implement these new provisions.

HB 427 – Honor and Remember the Flag (not signed by Governor)

By July 1, 2020, a department or an agency responsible for a location at which a flag may be flown or a participating local government may adopt regulations to implement this law. However, a regulation may not require an employee to report to work solely to display the flag.

Rules may need to be adopted to implement these new provisions.

HB 807 – Civics Education (not signed by Governor)

The bill provides that the hours that a high school student devotes to the Florida Debate Initiative, also known as the Central Florida Debate Initiative, the YMCA Youth and Government program, the American Legion Boys State program, the American Legion Girls State program, or other similar programs approved by the Commissioner count towards the service work requirement for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. Rules may need to be adopted to implement this new provision.

SB 1136 – Cyberharassment

The bill amends the definition of “personal identification information,” which pertains to the personal identification information of the person depicted in a sexually explicit image, to mean any information that identifies an individual, and includes, but is not limited to, any name, postal or electronic mail address, telephone number, social security number, date of birth, or any unique physical representation.

The bill amends the definition of “sexually cyberharass” to mean publishing to an Internet website or disseminating through electronic means to another person a sexually explicit image of a person that contains or conveys the personal identification information of the depicted person without the depicted person’s consent, contrary to the depicted person’s reasonable expectation that the image would remain private, for no legitimate purpose, with the intent of causing substantial emotional distress to the depicted person.

Rules may need to be adopted to implement these new provisions.

SB 190 – Higher Education – Bright Futures

While the new language is focused on the Florida College System, two paragraphs should be noted. The bill provides that the state board must continually maintain a list of all public education capital outlay projects for which state funds were previously appropriated which have not been completed. The list must include an estimate of the amount of state funding needed for the completion of each projection. In addition the state board must review its space need calculation methodology developed pursuant to s. 1013.31 to incorporate improvements, efficiencies, or changes. Recommendations must be submitted to the chairs of the House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Committees by October 31, 2019, and every 3 years thereafter. Section 1013.31, F.S., relates to educational plant survey; localized need assessment; PECO project funding and incorporates K-12 schools, state colleges and universities.

SB 1080 – Hazing (not signed by Governor)

The bill amends the definition of hazing at the post-secondary level to include the perpetuation or furtherance of a tradition or ritual of any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution.

Rules may need to be adopted to implement these new provisions for any postsecondary programs.

HB 7103 (not signed by Governor) and HB 207 contain provisions relating to impact fees.

Both need to be reviewed to determine whether any rules need to be revised or newly adopted.

SB 248 – Public Records

The bill defines “home addresses” as the dwelling location at which an individual resides and includes the physical address, mailing address, street address, parcel identification number, plot identification number, legal property description, neighborhood name and lot number, GPS coordinates, and any other descriptive property information that may reveal the home address.

In addition to other individuals, the bill excludes from public records the home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth and photographs of active or former civilian personnel

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employed by a law enforcement agency. In addition, the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are also exempt from public records.

Rules may need to be adopted to implement these new provisions.

HB 7021 – Financial Disclosure

The bill requires each unit of local government to assist the Commission on Ethics in compiling a list of reporting individuals and provide specific information to the Commission no later than February 1 of each year.