

CHAPTER 2025-58

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1470

An act relating to school safety; amending s. 30.15, F.S.; revising the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to include child care facilities; requiring a sheriff to establish a guardian program under certain circumstances; requiring certain security guards to meet specified school guardian training and screening requirements; requiring a child care facility or security agency to be responsible for all costs related to the guardian program; prohibiting such costs from exceeding a specified amount; authorizing a sheriff to waive such costs for a child care facility; prohibiting a sheriff from waiving costs for initial training of a school security guard; authorizing a sheriff to certify a person as a school security guard if he or she meets specified criteria; revising firearm requirements for school guardians and school security guards; authorizing a sheriff to issue certificates to school security guards who meet specified requirements; requiring a sheriff to maintain specified documentation; requiring a child care facility or employing security agency to make specified reports; requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to maintain specified records; requiring a sheriff to make specified reports of certain school guardian or school security guard trainings; prohibiting a child care facility or employing security agency from operating a school guardian program under certain circumstances; amending s. 402.305, F.S.; authorizing a child care facility to partner with specified entities to establish or assign safe-school officers and participate in the guardian program; requiring a child care facility to pay for the full cost of the guardian program; requiring compliance with specified provisions relating to safe-school officers; providing construction; amending s. 1001.212, F.S.; deleting obsolete language and making editorial changes; requiring the Office of Safe Schools to convene a workgroup of specified entities; requiring the workgroup to make recommendations for the establishment of a Florida Institute of School Safety; requiring the workgroup to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by a certain date; deleting a requirement for the office to evaluate the methodology for the safe school allocation; amending s. 1006.07, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Management Services, to identify a centralized system for use by all public safety answering point infrastructure, subject to appropriation; providing requirements for the system; requiring each public and charter school to confirm with the district school board that the school's respective panic alert system is connected to the centralized system; requiring that panic alert systems be integrated with the centralized system; requiring that certain digital maps be integrated with the centralized system; requiring specified school safety requirements to be implemented during specified time periods; revising the requirements for certain gates and campus access points to be open or unlocked; defining the terms "exclusive zone" and "nonexclusive zone";

providing construction; authorizing school classrooms and instructional spaces to use temporary door locks; providing requirements for such locks; providing that certain instructional spaces for career and technical education are exempt from specified requirements under certain circumstances; providing that certain provisions apply to common areas on school campuses; providing exemptions from certain requirements for doors, gates, and campus access points in certain schools; providing requirements for locked barriers between classrooms and open school campuses; requiring certain protocols and policies to be provided to substitute teachers; amending s. 1006.12, F.S.; requiring a sheriff to conduct specified training; requiring that certain reports be submitted to a school security guard's employing agency; requiring a sheriff's approval before a school security guard's employment in a county; requiring the Office of Safe Schools to provide specified information to the Department of Law Enforcement; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (k) of subsection (1) of section 30.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

30.15 Powers, duties, and obligations.—

(1) Sheriffs, in their respective counties, in person or by deputy, shall:

(k) Assist district school boards and charter school governing boards in complying with, or private schools or child care facilities, as defined in s. 402.302, in exercising options in, s. 1006.12. A sheriff shall ~~must~~, at a minimum, provide access to a Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises, as required under this paragraph. Persons certified as school guardians pursuant to this paragraph have no authority to act in any law enforcement capacity except to the extent necessary to prevent or abate an active assailant incident.

1.a. If a local school board has voted by a majority to implement a guardian program or has contracted for the use of school security guards to satisfy the requirements of s. 1006.12, the sheriff in that county must ~~shall~~ establish a guardian program to provide training for school guardians or school security guards, pursuant to subparagraph 2., to school district, charter school, or private school, child care facility, or security agency employees, either directly or through a contract with another sheriff's office that has established a guardian program. The security agency employing a school security guard is responsible for all training and screening-related costs for a school security guard, but such charges may not exceed the actual cost incurred by the sheriff to provide the training.

b. A charter school governing board in a school district that has not voted, or has declined, to implement a guardian program may request the sheriff in the county to establish a guardian program for the purpose of

training the charter school employees or school security guards consistent with the requirements of subparagraph 2. If the county sheriff denies the request, the charter school governing board may contract with a sheriff that has established a guardian program to provide such training. The charter school governing board must notify the superintendent and the sheriff in the charter school's county of the contract prior to its execution. The security agency employing a school security guard is responsible for all training and screening-related costs for a school security guard, but such charges may not exceed the actual cost incurred by the sheriff to provide the training.

c. A private school or child care facility in a school district that has not voted, or has declined, to implement a guardian program may request that the sheriff in the county of the private school or child care facility establish a guardian program for the purpose of training private school employees, child care facility employees, or school security guards. If the county sheriff denies the request, the private school or child care facility may contract with a sheriff from another county who has established a guardian program under subparagraph 2. to provide such training. The private school or child care facility must notify the sheriff in the private school's or child care facility's county of the contract with a sheriff from another county before its execution. The private school, child care facility, or security agency is responsible for all training and screening-related costs for a school guardian program. The sheriff providing such training must ensure that any moneys paid by a private school, child care facility, or security agency are not commingled with any funds provided by the state to the sheriff as reimbursement for screening-related and training-related costs of any school district or charter school employee.

d. The training program required in sub-subparagraph 2.b. is a standardized statewide curriculum, and each sheriff providing such training shall adhere to the course of instruction specified in that sub-subparagraph. This subparagraph does not prohibit a sheriff from providing additional training. A school guardian or school security guard who has completed the training program required in sub-subparagraph 2.b. may not be required to attend another sheriff's training program pursuant to that sub-subparagraph unless there has been at least a 1-year break in his or her appointment as a guardian or employment by a security agency as a school security guard in a school.

e. The sheriff conducting the training pursuant to subparagraph 2. for school district and charter school employees will be reimbursed for screening-related and training-related costs and for providing a one-time stipend of \$500 to each school guardian who participates in the school guardian program.

f. The sheriff may waive the training and screening-related costs for a private school or child care facility for a school guardian program. Funds provided pursuant to sub-subparagraph e. may not be used to subsidize any costs that have been waived by the sheriff. The sheriff may not waive the

training and screening-related costs required to be paid by a security agency for initial training or ongoing training of a school security guard.

g. A person who is certified and in good standing under the Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission, who meets the qualifications established in s. 943.13, and who is otherwise qualified for the position of a school guardian or school security guard may be certified as a school guardian or school security guard by the sheriff without completing the training requirements of sub-subparagraph 2.b. However, a person certified as a school guardian or school security guard under this sub-subparagraph must meet the requirements of sub-subparagraphs 2.c.-e.

2. A sheriff who establishes a program shall consult with the Department of Law Enforcement on programmatic guiding principles, practices, and resources, and shall certify as school guardians, without the power of arrest, school employees, as specified in s. 1006.12(3), or shall certify as school security guards those persons employed by a security agency who meet the criteria specified in s. 1006.12(4), and who:

a. Hold a valid license issued under s. 790.06 or are otherwise eligible to possess or carry a concealed firearm under chapter 790.

b. After satisfying the requirements of s. 1006.12(7), complete a 144-hour training program, consisting of 12 hours of training to improve the school guardian's knowledge and skills necessary to respond to and de-escalate incidents on school premises and 132 total hours of comprehensive firearm safety and proficiency training conducted by Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission-certified instructors, which must include:

(I) Eighty hours of firearms instruction based on the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission's Law Enforcement Academy training model, which must include at least 10 percent but no more than 20 percent more rounds fired than associated with academy training. Program participants must achieve an 85 percent pass rate on the firearms training.

(II) Sixteen hours of instruction in precision pistol.

(III) Eight hours of discretionary shooting instruction using state-of-the-art simulator exercises.

(IV) Sixteen hours of instruction in active shooter or assailant scenarios.

(V) Eight hours of instruction in defensive tactics.

(VI) Four hours of instruction in legal issues.

c. Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the Department of Law Enforcement and submit the results of the evaluation to the sheriff's office. The Department of Law Enforcement is authorized to provide the sheriff's

office with mental health and substance abuse data for compliance with this paragraph.

d. Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s. 112.0455 and the sheriff's office.

e. Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon inspection, and firearm qualification on at least an annual basis.

The sheriff who conducts the guardian training or waives the training requirements for a person under sub-subparagraph 1.g. shall issue a school guardian certificate to persons who meet the requirements of this section to the satisfaction of the sheriff, and shall maintain documentation of weapon and equipment inspections, as well as the training, certification, inspection, and qualification records of each school guardian certified by the sheriff. A person who is certified under this paragraph may serve as a school guardian under s. 1006.12(3) only if he or she is appointed by the applicable school district superintendent, charter school principal, ~~or private school head of school, or child care facility owner.~~ A sheriff who conducts the training for a school security guard or waives the training requirements for a person under sub-subparagraph 1.g. and determines that the school security guard has met all the requirements of s. 1006.12(4) shall issue a school security guard certificate to persons who meet the requirements of this section to the satisfaction of the sheriff and shall maintain documentation of weapon and equipment inspections, training, certification, and qualification records for each school security guard certified by the sheriff.

3.a.(I) Within 30 days after issuing a school guardian or school security guard certificate, the sheriff who issued the certificate must report to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth, and certification date of the school guardian or school security guard.

~~(II) By September 1, 2024, each sheriff who issued a school guardian certificate must report to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth, and certification date of each school guardian who received a certificate from the sheriff.~~

b.(I) By February 1 and September 1 of each school year, each school district, charter school, employing security agency, and private school, and child care facility must report in the manner prescribed to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth, and appointment date of each person appointed as a school guardian or employed as a school security guard. The school district, charter school, employing security agency, and private school, and child care facility must also report in the manner prescribed to the Department of Law Enforcement the date each school guardian or school security guard separates from his or her appointment as a school guardian or employment as a school security guard in a school.

~~(H) By September 1, 2024, each school district, charter school, and private school must report to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth, and initial and end-of-appointment dates, as applicable, of each person appointed as a school guardian.~~

c. The Department of Law Enforcement shall maintain a list of each person appointed as a school guardian or certified as a school security guard in the state. The list must include the name and certification date of each school guardian and school security guard and the date the person was appointed as a school guardian or certified as a school security guard, including the name of the school district, charter school, or private school, or child care facility in which the school guardian is appointed, or the employing security agency of a school security guard, any information provided pursuant to s. 1006.12(5), and, if applicable, the date such person separated from his or her appointment as a school guardian or the last date a school security guard served in a school as of the last reporting date. The Department of Law Enforcement shall remove from the list any person whose training has expired pursuant to sub-subparagraph 1.d.

d. Each sheriff ~~shall~~ must report on a quarterly basis to the Department of Law Enforcement the schedule for upcoming school guardian trainings, to include guardian trainings for school security guards, including the dates of the training, the training locations, a contact person to register for the training, and the class capacity. If no trainings are scheduled, the sheriff is not required to report to the Department of Law Enforcement. The Department of Law Enforcement shall publish on its website a list of the upcoming school guardian trainings. The Department of Law Enforcement ~~shall~~ must update such list quarterly.

e. A sheriff who fails to report the information required by this subparagraph may not receive reimbursement from the Department of Education for school guardian trainings. Upon the submission of the required information, a sheriff is deemed eligible for such funding and is authorized to continue to receive reimbursement for school guardian training.

f. A school district, charter school, or private school, child care facility, or employing security agency that fails to report the information required by this subparagraph is prohibited from operating ~~may not operate~~ a school guardian program or employing school security guards in for the following school year, unless the missing school district, charter school, or private school has submitted the required information is provided.

g. By March 1 and October 1 of each school year, the Department of Law Enforcement shall notify the Department of Education of any sheriff, school district, charter school, or private school, or child care facility that has not complied with the reporting requirements of this subparagraph.

h. The Department of Law Enforcement may adopt rules to implement the requirements of this subparagraph, including requiring additional

reporting information only as necessary to uniquely identify each school guardian and school security guard reported.

Section 2. Subsection (20) is added to section 402.305, Florida Statutes, to read:

402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

(20) SAFE SCHOOL OFFICERS.—

(a) A child care facility may partner with a law enforcement agency or a security agency to establish or assign one or more safe-school officers established in s. 1006.12(1)-(4). The child care facility is responsible for the full cost of implementing any such option, which includes all training costs under the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program under s. 30.15(1)(k).

(b) A child care facility that establishes a safe-school officer must comply with the requirements of s. 1006.12. References to a school district, district school board, or district school superintendent in s. 1006.12(1)-(5) shall also mean an owner of a child care facility. References to a school district employee in s. 1006.12(3) shall also mean child care personnel.

Section 3. Paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subsection (11) and subsection (17) of section 1001.212, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1001.212 Office of Safe Schools.—There is created in the Department of Education the Office of Safe Schools. The office is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education. The office shall serve as a central repository for best practices, training standards, and compliance oversight in all matters regarding school safety and security, including prevention efforts, intervention efforts, and emergency preparedness planning. The office shall:

(11) Develop a statewide behavioral threat management operational process, a Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument, and a threat management portal.

~~(a)1. By December 1, 2023, The office shall maintain the develop a~~ statewide behavioral threat management operational process to guide school districts, schools, charter school governing boards, and charter schools through the threat management process. The process must be designed to identify, assess, manage, and monitor potential and real threats to schools. This process must include, but is not limited to:

- a. The establishment and duties of threat management teams.
- b. Defining behavioral risks and threats.
- c. The use of the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument developed pursuant to paragraph (b) to evaluate the behavior of

students who may pose a threat to the school, school staff, or other students and to coordinate intervention and services for such students.

d. Upon the availability of the threat management portal developed pursuant to paragraph (c), the use, authorized user criteria, and access specifications of the portal.

e. Procedures for the implementation of interventions, school support, and community services.

f. Guidelines for appropriate law enforcement intervention.

g. Procedures for risk management.

h. Procedures for disciplinary actions.

i. Mechanisms for continued monitoring of potential and real threats.

j. Procedures for referrals to mental health services identified by the school district or charter school governing board pursuant to s. 1012.584(4).

k. Procedures and requirements necessary for the creation of a threat assessment report, all corresponding documentation, and any other information required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument under paragraph (b).

2. ~~Upon availability,~~ Each school district, school, charter school governing board, and charter school ~~shall~~ must use the statewide behavioral threat management operational process.

3. The office shall provide training to all school districts, schools, charter school governing boards, and charter schools on the statewide behavioral threat management operational process.

4. The office shall coordinate the ongoing development, implementation, and operation of the statewide behavioral threat management operational process.

(b)1. ~~By August 1, 2023,~~ The office shall ~~maintain the develop a~~ Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument for school districts, schools, charter school governing boards, and charter schools to use to evaluate the behavior of students who may pose a threat to the school, school staff, or students and to coordinate intervention and services for such students. The Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument must include, but is not limited to:

a. An assessment of the threat, which includes an assessment of the student, family, and school and social dynamics.

b. An evaluation to determine whether a threat exists and if so, the type of threat.

c. The response to a threat, which includes the school response, the role of law enforcement agencies in the response, and the response by mental health providers.

d. Ongoing monitoring to assess implementation of threat management and safety strategies.

e. Ongoing monitoring to evaluate interventions and support provided to the students.

f. A standardized threat assessment report, which must include, but need not be limited to, all documentation associated with the evaluation, intervention, management, and any ongoing monitoring of the threat.

2. A report, all corresponding documentation, and any other information required by the instrument in the threat management portal under paragraph (c) is an education record and may not be retained, maintained, or transferred, except in accordance with State Board of Education rule.

3. ~~Upon availability,~~ Each school district, school, charter school governing board, and charter school shall ~~must~~ use the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.

4. The office shall provide training for members of threat management teams established under s. 1006.07(7) and for all school districts and charter school governing boards regarding the use of the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.

(c)1. By August 1, 2025, the office shall develop, host, maintain, and administer a threat management portal that will digitize the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument for use by each school district, school, charter school governing board, and charter school. The portal will also facilitate the electronic threat assessment reporting and documentation as required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument to evaluate the behavior of students who may pose a threat to the school, school staff, or students and to coordinate intervention and services for such students. The portal may not provide the office with access to the portal unless authorized in accordance with State Board of Education rule. The portal must include, but need not be limited to, the following functionalities:

a. Workflow processes that align with the statewide behavioral threat management operational process.

b. Direct data entry and file uploading as required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.

c. The ability to create a threat assessment report as required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.

d. The ability of authorized personnel to add to or update a threat assessment report, all corresponding documentation, or any other information required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.

e. The ability to create and remove connections between education records in the portal and authorized personnel.

f. The ability to grant access to and securely transfer any education records in the portal to other schools or charter schools in the district.

g. The ability to grant access to and securely transfer any education records in the portal to schools and charter schools not in the originating district.

h. The ability to retain, maintain, and transfer education records in the portal in accordance with State Board of Education rule.

i. The ability to restrict access to, entry of, modification of, and transfer of education records in the portal to a school district, school, charter school governing board, or charter school and authorized personnel as specified by the statewide behavioral threat management operational process.

j. The ability to designate school district or charter school governing board system administrators who may grant access to authorized school district and charter school governing board personnel and school and charter school system administrators.

k. The ability to designate school or charter school system administrators who may grant access to authorized school or charter school personnel.

1. The ability to notify the office's system administrators and school district or charter school governing board system administrators of attempts to access any education records by unauthorized personnel.

2. Upon availability, each school district, school, charter school governing board, and charter school shall use the portal.

3. A threat assessment report, including, but not limited to, all corresponding documentation, and any other information required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument which is maintained in the portal, is an education record and may not be retained, maintained, or transferred, except in accordance with State Board of Education rule.

4. The office and the office system administrators may not have access to a threat assessment report, all corresponding documentation, and any other information required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument which is maintained in the portal, except in accordance with State Board of Education rule.

5. A school district or charter school governing board may not have access to the education records in the portal, except in accordance with State Board of Education rule.

6. The parent of a student may access his or her student's education records in the portal in accordance with State Board of Education rule, but may not have access to the portal.

7. The office shall develop and implement a quarterly portal access review audit process.

8. Upon availability, each school district, school, charter school governing board, and charter school shall comply with the quarterly portal access review audit process developed by the office.

9. By August 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the office shall provide role-based training to all authorized school district, school, charter school governing board, and charter school personnel.

10. Any individual who accesses, uses, or releases any education record contained in the portal for a purpose not specifically authorized by law commits a noncriminal infraction, punishable by a fine not exceeding \$2,000.

(17) Convene a workgroup of stakeholders, including, but not limited to, postsecondary institutions, law enforcement, fire and EMS, emergency management, school facilities staff, school safety specialists, school administrators, superintendents, school-based mental health professionals, and threat management practitioners. The workgroup shall make recommendations for the establishment of a Florida Institute of School Safety, including programs and functions to enhance school safety. The workgroup shall submit the findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than January 1, 2026 ~~By December 1, 2024, evaluate the methodology for the safe schools allocation in s. 1011.62(12) and, if necessary, make recommendations for an alternate methodology to distribute the remaining balance of the safe schools allocation as indicated in s. 1011.62(12).~~

Section 4. Paragraph (f) of subsection (6) of section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, is amended, paragraph (h) is added to that subsection, and paragraphs (f) and (g) are added to subsection (4) of that section, to read:

1006.07 District school board duties relating to student discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the attendance and control of students at school, and for proper attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the welfare of students, including:

(4) EMERGENCY DRILLS; EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.—

(f) Subject to an appropriation, the Department of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Management Services, shall identify

a centralized system for use by all public safety answering point infrastructure which can receive alerts from all panic alert systems and integrate digital maps used by public schools, charter schools, and other educational institutions. The centralized system must:

1. Receive alerts, location information, and relevant data from all department-approved panic alert systems.

2. Integrate and display digital school maps to provide real-time situational awareness to law enforcement and emergency responders.

3. Retain and provide access to historical alert data for use by authorized state agencies.

(g) If established pursuant to paragraph (f), each public school and charter school shall confirm with the district school board that the school's respective panic alert system is connected to the centralized system. Panic alert systems must be integrated with the centralized system to ensure seamless notification of law enforcement and emergency responders. Digital maps required under s. 1013.13 must also be integrated with the centralized system to support emergency response.

(6) SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES.—Each district school superintendent shall establish policies and procedures for the prevention of violence on school grounds, including the assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of the school community.

(f) School safety requirements.—By August 1, 2024, Each school district and charter school governing board shall comply with the following school safety requirements, which apply from 30 minutes before the school start time until 30 minutes after the end of the school day:

1. All gates or other access points that restrict ingress to or egress from the exclusive zone of a school campus shall remain closed and locked when students are on campus. For the purposes of this section, the term “exclusive zone” means the area within a gate or door allowing access to the interior perimeter of a school campus beyond a single point of entry. A gate or other campus access point to the exclusive zone may only not be open or unlocked if one of the following conditions is met, regardless of whether it is during normal school hours, unless:

a. It is attended or actively staffed by a person when students are on campus;

b. The use complies is in accordance with a shared use agreement pursuant to s. 1013.101;

c. Another closed and locked gate or access point separates the open or unlocked gate from areas occupied by students; or

d.e. The school safety specialist, or his or her designee, has documented in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the gate or other access point is not subject to this requirement based upon other safety measures at the school. The office may conduct a compliance visit pursuant to s. 1001.212(14) to review if such determination is appropriate.

This subparagraph does not apply to the nonexclusive zone of a school campus. The term “nonexclusive zone” means the area outside of the exclusive zone but contained on school property. Nonexclusive zones may include, but are not limited to, such spaces as parking lots, athletic fields and stadiums, mechanical buildings, playgrounds, bus ramps, agricultural spaces, and other areas that do not give direct, unimpeded access to the exclusive zone.

2.a. All school classrooms and other instructional spaces must be locked to prevent ingress when occupied by students, except between class periods when students are moving between classrooms or other instructional spaces. If a classroom or other instructional space door must be left unlocked or open for any reason other than between class periods when students are moving between classrooms or other instructional spaces, the door must be actively staffed by a person standing or seated at the door. All school classrooms and other instructional spaces with a permanently installed door lock may also use temporary door locks during an active assailant incident. The temporary door lock must be able to be engaged or removed without opening the door; must be easily removed in a single operation from the egress side of the door without the use of a key and from the ingress side of the door with the use of a key or other credential; may be installed at any height; must otherwise be in compliance with the Florida Fire Prevention Code; and must be integrated into the active assailant response plan.

b. Instructional spaces for career and technical education which are designed as open areas for which compliance with the requirements of sub-subparagraph a. affects the health and safety of students may be exempted from compliance with that sub-subparagraph by the school safety specialist. To be exempt, the school safety specialist, or his or her designee, must document in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the instructional space is exempt from these requirements due to negative impacts to student health and safety and the presence of other safety measures at the school that prevent egress from the instructional space to hallways or other classrooms or instructional spaces.

c. Common areas on a school campus, including, but not limited to, cafeterias, auditoriums, and media centers, which are used for instructional time or student testing must meet the requirements of sub-subparagraph a. only when such areas are being used for instructional time or student testing.

3. For schools that do not have a secure exclusive zone, all campus access doors, gates, and other access points that allow ingress to or egress from a

school building shall remain closed and locked at all times to prevent ingress, unless:

a. A person is actively entering or exiting the door, gate, or other access point;

b. The door, gate, or access point is actively staffed by school personnel to prevent unauthorized entry; or

c. The school safety specialist, or his or her designee, has documented in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the open and unlocked door, gate, or other access point is not subject to this requirement based upon other safety measures at the school. There must be at least one locked barrier between classrooms and instructional spaces and open school campus.

The office may conduct a compliance visit pursuant to s. 1001.212(14) to review if such determination is appropriate. All campus access doors, gates, and other access points may be electronically or manually controlled by school personnel to allow access by authorized visitors, students, and school personnel.

4. All school classrooms and other instructional spaces must clearly and conspicuously mark the safest areas in each classroom or other instructional space where students must shelter in place during an emergency. Students must be notified of these safe areas within the first 10 days of the school year. If it is not feasible to clearly and conspicuously mark the safest areas in a classroom or other instructional space, the school safety specialist, or his or her designee, must document such determination in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools, identifying where affected students must shelter in place. The office shall assist the school safety specialist with compliance during the inspection required under s. 1001.212(14).

Persons who are aware of a violation of this paragraph must report the violation to the school principal. The school principal must report the violation to the school safety specialist no later than the next business day after receiving such report. If the person who violated this paragraph is the school principal or charter school administrator, the report must be made directly to the district school superintendent or charter school governing board, as applicable.

(h) Provision of school safety protocols and policies.—Each substitute teacher must be provided all school safety protocols and policies before beginning his or her first day of substitute teaching at a school.

Section 5. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 1006.12, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1006.12 Safe-school officers at each public school.—For the protection and safety of school personnel, property, students, and visitors, each district

school board and school district 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 district 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 school district may implement any combination of the options in subsections (1)-(4) to best meet the needs of the school district and charter schools.

(4) SCHOOL SECURITY GUARD.—A school district or charter school governing board may contract with a security agency as defined in s. 493.6101(18) to employ as a school security guard an individual who holds a Class “D” and Class “G” license pursuant to chapter 493, provided the following training and contractual conditions are met:

(a) An individual who serves as a school security guard, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of this section, must:

1. Demonstrate completion of 144 hours of required training conducted by a sheriff pursuant to s. 30.15(1)(k)2.

2. Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the Department of Law Enforcement and submit the results of the evaluation to the sheriff's office, and school district, or charter school governing board, or employing security agency, as applicable. The Department of Law Enforcement is authorized to provide the sheriff's office, school district, ~~or charter school governing board,~~ or employing security agency with mental health and substance abuse data for compliance with this paragraph.

3. Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s. 112.0455 and the sheriff's office, school district, ~~or charter school governing board,~~ or employing security agency, as applicable.

4. Be approved to work as a school security guard by the sheriff of each county in which the school security guard will be assigned to a school before commencing work at any school in that county. The sheriff's approval authorizes the security agency to assign the school security guard to any school in the county, and the sheriff's approval is not limited to any particular school.

5.4. Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon inspection, and firearm qualification conducted by a sheriff pursuant to s. 30.15(1)(k)2.e. on at least an annual basis and provide documentation to the sheriff's office, school district, ~~or charter school governing board,~~ or employing security agency, as applicable.

(b) The contract between a security agency and a school district or a charter school governing board regarding requirements applicable to school

security guards serving in the capacity of a safe-school officer for purposes of satisfying the requirements of this section shall define the entity or entities responsible for ~~training and the responsibilities~~ for maintaining records relating to training, inspection, and firearm qualification.

(c) School security guards serving in the capacity of a safe-school officer pursuant to this subsection are in support of school-sanctioned activities for purposes of s. 790.115, and must aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises.

(d) The Office of Safe Schools shall provide the Department of Law Enforcement any information related to a school security guard that the office receives pursuant to subsection (5).

(5) NOTIFICATION.—The district school superintendent or charter school administrator, or a respective designee, shall notify the county sheriff and the Office of Safe Schools immediately after, but no later than 72 hours after:

(a) A safe-school officer is dismissed for misconduct or is otherwise disciplined.

(b) A safe-school officer discharges his or her firearm in the exercise of the safe-school officer's duties, other than for training purposes.

If a district school board, through its adopted policies, procedures, or actions, denies a charter school access to any safe-school officer options 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(12) and shall be retained by the school district.

Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor May 21, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 21, 2025.