

By Senator Jones

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the reporting of school safety  
3       issues; providing a short title; amending s. 1001.212,  
4       F.S.; requiring data from a specified hotline to be  
5       included in a certain centralized integrated data  
6       repository; requiring the Office of Safe Schools to  
7       establish and operate a hotline for specified  
8       purposes; requiring the office to award grants through  
9       a specified program; amending s. 1006.07, F.S.;  
10      requiring threat assessment teams to report all  
11      threats and incidents to the school principal;  
12      requiring school principals to report certain threats  
13      and incidents to the district school superintendent,  
14      the office, and all school personnel and parents;  
15      providing requirements for such reports; requiring  
16      threat assessment teams to provide specified training  
17      to all school personnel; requiring training curriculum  
18      to be annually approved by the district school safety  
19      specialist and the office; providing requirements for  
20      school personnel; requiring the office to take  
21      specified actions under certain conditions; providing  
22      for a loss of or a reduction in specified grant  
23      funding for noncompliant schools; creating s.  
24      1006.1494, F.S.; establishing the Safe Schools Grant  
25      Program; providing for funding and administration of  
26      the program; requiring the office to establish an  
27      application process and determine school eligibility;  
28      providing for the award of grants to eligible schools;  
29      providing for the office to prorate the amounts of

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30 such grants; providing that schools lose grant  
31 eligibility for specified periods of time under  
32 certain circumstances; requiring the State Board of  
33 Education to adopt rules to administer the program;  
34 providing an effective date.

35  
36 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

37  
38 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Parents Need to  
39 Know Act".

40 Section 2. Paragraph (f) of subsection (6) and subsections  
41 (8) and (9) of section 1001.212, Florida Statutes, are amended  
42 to read:

43 1001.212 Office of Safe Schools.—There is created in the  
44 Department of Education the Office of Safe Schools. The office  
45 is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education. The  
46 office shall serve as a central repository for best practices,  
47 training standards, and compliance oversight in all matters  
48 regarding school safety and security, including prevention  
49 efforts, intervention efforts, and emergency preparedness  
50 planning. The office shall:

51 (6) Coordinate with the Department of Law Enforcement to  
52 provide a centralized integrated data repository and data  
53 analytics resources to improve access to timely, complete, and  
54 accurate information integrating data from, at a minimum, but  
55 not limited to, the following data sources by August 1, 2019:

56 (f) School environmental safety incident reports and  
57 records from reports to the hotline collected under subsection  
58 (8); and

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60 Data that is exempt or confidential and exempt from public  
61 records requirements retains its exempt or confidential and  
62 exempt status when incorporated into the centralized integrated  
63 data repository. To maintain the confidentiality requirements  
64 attached to the information provided to the centralized  
65 integrated data repository by the various state and local  
66 agencies, data governance and security shall ensure compliance  
67 with all applicable state and federal data privacy requirements  
68 through the use of user authorization and role-based security,  
69 data anonymization and aggregation and auditing capabilities. To  
70 maintain the confidentiality requirements attached to the  
71 information provided to the centralized integrated data  
72 repository by the various state and local agencies, each source  
73 agency providing data to the repository shall be the sole  
74 custodian of the data for the purpose of any request for  
75 inspection or copies thereof under chapter 119. The department  
76 shall only allow access to data from the source agencies in  
77 accordance with rules adopted by the respective source agencies  
78 and the requirements of the Federal Bureau of Investigation  
79 Criminal Justice Information Services security policy, where  
80 applicable.

81 (8) (a) Provide technical assistance to school districts and  
82 charter school governing boards for school environmental safety  
83 incident reporting as required under s. 1006.07(9).

84 (b) Establish and operate a hotline for parents to report  
85 school safety issues and for school district or school personnel  
86 to report a threat assessment team's or principal's  
87 noncompliance with s. 1006.07(7) (f). Such reports may be made

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88 via a single statewide toll-free telephone number or a web-based  
89 report.

90 (c) The office shall Collect data through school  
91 environmental safety incident reports and the hotline on  
92 incidents involving any person which occur on school premises,  
93 on school transportation, and at off-campus, school-sponsored  
94 events and noncompliance with s. 1006.07(7)(f).

95 (d) The office shall Review and evaluate school district  
96 reports to ensure compliance with reporting requirements. Upon  
97 notification by the department that a superintendent has failed  
98 to comply with the requirements of s. 1006.07(9), the district  
99 school board shall withhold further payment of his or her salary  
100 as authorized under s. 1001.42(13)(b) and impose other  
101 appropriate sanctions that the commissioner or state board by  
102 law may impose.

103 (9) Award grants to schools through the Safe Schools Grant  
104 Program under s. 1006.1494 to improve the safety and security of  
105 school buildings based upon recommendations of the security risk  
106 assessment developed pursuant to subsection (1).

107 Section 3. Subsections (7) and (9) of section 1006.07,  
108 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

109 1006.07 District school board duties relating to student  
110 discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall  
111 provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the  
112 attendance and control of students at school, and for proper  
113 attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the  
114 welfare of students, including:

115 (7) THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAMS.—Each district school board  
116 shall adopt policies for the establishment of threat assessment

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117 teams at each school whose duties include the coordination of  
118 resources and assessment and intervention with individuals whose  
119 behavior may pose a threat to the safety of school staff or  
120 students consistent with the model policies developed by the  
121 Office of Safe Schools and the reporting of such threats as  
122 required by this subsection. Such policies must include  
123 procedures for referrals to mental health services identified by  
124 the school district pursuant to s. 1012.584(4), when  
125 appropriate, and procedures for behavioral threat assessments in  
126 compliance with the instrument developed pursuant to s.  
127 1001.212(12).

128 (a) A threat assessment team shall include persons with  
129 expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration, and  
130 law enforcement. The threat assessment teams shall identify  
131 members of the school community to whom threatening behavior  
132 should be reported and provide guidance to students, faculty,  
133 and staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant  
134 behavior that may represent a threat to the community, school,  
135 or self. Upon the availability of the behavioral threat  
136 assessment instrument developed pursuant to s. 1001.212(12), the  
137 threat assessment team shall use that instrument.

138 (b) Upon a preliminary determination that a student poses a  
139 threat of violence or physical harm to himself or herself or  
140 others, a threat assessment team shall immediately report its  
141 determination to the superintendent or his or her designee. The  
142 superintendent or his or her designee shall immediately attempt  
143 to notify the student's parent or legal guardian. Nothing in  
144 this subsection shall preclude school district personnel from  
145 acting immediately to address an imminent threat.

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146 (c) Upon a preliminary determination by the threat  
147 assessment team that a student poses a threat of violence to  
148 himself or herself or others or exhibits significantly  
149 disruptive behavior or need for assistance, authorized members  
150 of the threat assessment team may obtain criminal history record  
151 information pursuant to s. 985.04(1). A member of a threat  
152 assessment team may not disclose any criminal history record  
153 information obtained pursuant to this section or otherwise use  
154 any record of an individual beyond the purpose for which such  
155 disclosure was made to the threat assessment team.

156 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all state  
157 and local agencies and programs that provide services to  
158 students experiencing or at risk of an emotional disturbance or  
159 a mental illness, including the school districts, school  
160 personnel, state and local law enforcement agencies, the  
161 Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Children and  
162 Families, the Department of Health, the Agency for Health Care  
163 Administration, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the  
164 Department of Education, the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office,  
165 and any service or support provider contracting with such  
166 agencies, ~~may~~ share with each other records or information that  
167 are confidential or exempt from disclosure under chapter 119 if  
168 the records or information are reasonably necessary to ensure  
169 access to appropriate services for the student or to ensure the  
170 safety of the student or others. All such state and local  
171 agencies and programs shall communicate, collaborate, and  
172 coordinate efforts to serve such students.

173 (e) If an immediate mental health or substance abuse crisis  
174 is suspected, school personnel shall follow policies established

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175 by the threat assessment team to engage behavioral health crisis  
176 resources. Behavioral health crisis resources, including, but  
177 not limited to, mobile crisis teams and school resource officers  
178 trained in crisis intervention, shall provide emergency  
179 intervention and assessment, make recommendations, and refer the  
180 student for appropriate services. Onsite school personnel shall  
181 report all such situations and actions taken to the threat  
182 assessment team, which shall contact the other agencies involved  
183 with the student and any known service providers to share  
184 information and coordinate any necessary followup actions. Upon  
185 the student's transfer to a different school, the threat  
186 assessment team shall verify that any intervention services  
187 provided to the student remain in place until the threat  
188 assessment team of the receiving school independently determines  
189 the need for intervention services.

190 (f)1. Each threat assessment team must report any threat or  
191 incident to the school principal as soon as reasonably possible.

192 2. Each school principal must report a threat or incident  
193 that affects the safety of a school; affects the health, safety,  
194 or welfare of a student or school personnel; or involves a  
195 violent criminal act on school grounds or at a school-sponsored  
196 event within 24 hours after the discovery of the threat or  
197 incident, including what actions were taken in response to the  
198 threat or incident and what actions a parent may take if he or  
199 she has continued concerns regarding the threat or incident.  
200 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each report must  
201 include any threat or incident that involves a student with a  
202 disability. The reports may not include identifying information,  
203 including the names, of students or school personnel.

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204 a. The school principal must report a threat or incident  
205 under subparagraph 2. to all of the following:

206 (I) The district school superintendent pursuant to  
207 subsection (9).

208 (II) The Office of Safe Schools.

209 (III) All school personnel employed by such school.

210 (IV) Parents of all students enrolled at such school.

211 b. A threat or incident that must be reported by the  
212 school principal under subparagraph 2. includes, but is not  
213 limited to, all of the following:

214 (I) The possession of a weapon of any kind on any portion  
215 of school grounds, including lockers, fields, easements, and  
216 motor vehicles. This sub-sub-subparagraph does not apply to a  
217 person who legally carries a weapon onto school grounds.

218 (II) A threat of murder or maiming against a student or  
219 school personnel.

220 (III) An incident of trespassing. The report must include  
221 information on how the trespasser gained access to school  
222 grounds.

223 (IV) An allegation of sexual assault.

224 (V) An allegation of misconduct by school personnel that  
225 affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student.

226 (VI) An incident of violence in which a person was provided  
227 medical care by a paramedic or was transported to a hospital.

228 (VII) A failure to secure the perimeter of school grounds,  
229 even if the perimeter was not breached. The report must include  
230 the length of time during which the perimeter was unsecured.

231 3. Each threat assessment team shall provide training to  
232 all school personnel regarding the requirements of this



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233 paragraph. The training curriculum must be annually approved by  
234 the district school safety specialist and the Office of Safe  
235 Schools. Each member of school personnel must affirm that he or  
236 she received such training and understands what threats or  
237 incidents must be reported and to whom, including who to contact  
238 on the threat assessment team, and the method for reporting such  
239 threats or incidents, including the hotline telephone number or  
240 website address provided by the office under s. 1001.212. If a  
241 member of school personnel contacts the office with questions  
242 regarding this paragraph, the office must provide guidance as  
243 necessary.

244 4. If a threat assessment team or school principal fails to  
245 meet the requirements of this paragraph, the office shall  
246 investigate such failure. For purposes of the Safe Schools Grant  
247 Program under s. 1006.1494, the office shall annually establish  
248 each school's eligibility for a Safe Schools grant. If 5 percent  
249 or more of the schools within a school district fail to comply  
250 with this paragraph at least once within a 7-year period, the  
251 school district must retrain all staff personnel within the  
252 school district and shall have the amount of Safe Schools grant  
253 funds under s. 1006.1494 for which its schools are eligible  
254 reduced pursuant to that section. The office shall calculate the  
255 percentage of schools within each school district that fail to  
256 comply with this paragraph at the end of each school year.

257 5. Every 5 years, the office must audit each school  
258 district for compliance with this paragraph. The audit must  
259 include school visits, reviews of actual referrals submitted by  
260 teachers to ensure that such referrals are handled correctly,  
261 and interviews with school personnel and school district staff

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262 to ensure proper training and compliance with this paragraph.  
263 Such interviews must be conducted randomly.

264 (g)~~(f)~~ Each threat assessment team established pursuant to  
265 this subsection shall report quantitative data on its activities  
266 to the Office of Safe Schools in accordance with guidance from  
267 the office and shall utilize the threat assessment database  
268 developed pursuant to s. 1001.212(13) upon the availability of  
269 the database.

270 (9) SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY INCIDENT REPORTING.—Each  
271 district school board shall adopt policies to ensure the  
272 accurate and timely reporting of incidents related to school  
273 safety and discipline, including reporting threats or incidents  
274 of violent criminal acts on school grounds or at school-  
275 sponsored events to the district school superintendent, the  
276 office, all school personnel, and all parents pursuant to  
277 subparagraph (7) (f)2. The district school superintendent is  
278 responsible for school environmental safety incident reporting.  
279 A district school superintendent who fails to comply with this  
280 subsection is subject to the penalties specified in law,  
281 including, but not limited to, s. 1001.42(13) (b) or s.  
282 1001.51(12) (b), as applicable. The State Board of Education  
283 shall adopt rules establishing the requirements for the school  
284 environmental safety incident report.

285 Section 4. Section 1006.1494, Florida Statutes, is created  
286 to read:

287 1006.1494 Safe Schools Grant Program.—There is established  
288 the Safe Schools Grant Program, a lottery-funded program, to be  
289 administered by the Office of Safe Schools within the Department  
290 of Education. Funding for such program shall be annually

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291 allocated from the Education Enhancement Trust Fund.

292 (1) The office shall establish an application process for  
293 awarding a grant under this section. Each eligible school shall  
294 receive a grant pursuant to this section. The amount of each  
295 grant shall be based on the size of the school's enrollment. The  
296 office shall prorate the amount of each grant to ensure that all  
297 eligible schools that apply receive a grant. Subject to  
298 available funds, the office may award bonus grants to schools  
299 that have successfully complied with s. 1006.07(7)(f) for 3 or  
300 more consecutive years.

301 (2) Annually, the office shall determine each school's  
302 eligibility for a grant by ensuring compliance with s.  
303 1006.07(7)(f). A school that does not comply with s.  
304 1006.07(7)(f) shall lose its grant eligibility as follows:

305 (a) First noncompliance within a 7-year period: the office  
306 shall perform an audit of the last 6 months of activity for the  
307 school's threat assessment team.

308 (b) Second noncompliance within a 7-year period: the school  
309 shall lose its eligibility to receive a grant under this section  
310 for a period of 1 year.

311 (c) Third noncompliance within a 7-year period: the school  
312 shall lose its eligibility to receive a grant under this section  
313 for a period of 3 years.

314 (d) Fourth or subsequent noncompliance within a 7-year  
315 period: the school shall lose its eligibility to receive a grant  
316 under this section for a period of 5 years.

317  
318 If 5 percent or more of the schools within a school district  
319 fail to comply at least once within a 7-year period, the school

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320 district must retrain all staff personnel within the school  
321 district and shall have the amount of grant funds for which its  
322 schools are eligible reduced by 30 percent. Any reduction in the  
323 amount of funding for which such schools are eligible shall be  
324 applied to the following school year.

325 (3) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
326 administer this section.

327 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.