

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

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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  
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

59  
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  
82 and charter school governing boards for school environmental  
83 safety 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  
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  
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  
139 a 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.

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  
174 crisis is suspected, school personnel shall follow policies  
175 established by the threat assessment team to engage behavioral

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

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

193 2. Each school principal must report a threat or incident  
194 that affects the safety of a school; affects the health, safety,  
195 or welfare of a student or school personnel; or involves a  
196 violent criminal act on school grounds or at a school-sponsored  
197 event within 24 hours after the discovery of the threat or  
198 incident, including what actions were taken in response to the  
199 threat or incident and what actions a parent may take if he or  
200 she has continued concerns regarding the threat or incident.



201 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each report must  
 202 include any threat or incident that involves a student with a  
 203 disability. The reports may not include identifying information,  
 204 including the names, of students or school personnel.

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

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

209 (II) The Office of Safe Schools.

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

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

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

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

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

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

224 (IV) An allegation of sexual assault.

225 (V) An allegation of misconduct by school personnel that

226 affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student.

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

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

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

246 4. If a threat assessment team or school principal fails  
247 to meet the requirements of this paragraph, the office shall  
248 investigate such failure. For purposes of the Safe Schools Grant  
249 Program under s. 1006.1494, the office shall annually establish  
250 each school's eligibility for a Safe Schools grant. If 5 percent

251 or more of the schools within a school district fail to comply  
252 with this paragraph at least once within a 7-year period, the  
253 school district must retrain all staff personnel within the  
254 school district and shall have the amount of Safe Schools grant  
255 funds under s. 1006.1494 for which its schools are eligible  
256 reduced pursuant to that section. The office shall calculate the  
257 percentage of schools within each school district that fail to  
258 comply with this paragraph at the end of each school year.

259 5. Every 5 years, the office must audit each school  
260 district for compliance with this paragraph. The audit must  
261 include school visits, reviews of actual referrals submitted by  
262 teachers to ensure that such referrals are handled correctly,  
263 and interviews with school personnel and school district staff  
264 to ensure proper training and compliance with this paragraph.  
265 Such interviews must be conducted randomly.

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

272 (9) SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY INCIDENT REPORTING.—Each  
273 district school board shall adopt policies to ensure the  
274 accurate and timely reporting of incidents related to school  
275 safety and discipline, including reporting threats or incidents

276 of violent criminal acts on school grounds or at school-  
277 sponsored events to the district school superintendent, the  
278 office, all school personnel, and all parents pursuant to  
279 subparagraph (7)(f)2. The district school superintendent is  
280 responsible for school environmental safety incident reporting.  
281 A district school superintendent who fails to comply with this  
282 subsection is subject to the penalties specified in law,  
283 including, but not limited to, s. 1001.42(13)(b) or s.  
284 1001.51(12)(b), as applicable. The State Board of Education  
285 shall adopt rules establishing the requirements for the school  
286 environmental safety incident report.

287 Section 4. Section 1006.1494, Florida Statutes, is created  
288 to read:

289 1006.1494 Safe Schools Grant Program.—There is established  
290 the Safe Schools Grant Program, a lottery-funded program, to be  
291 administered by the Office of Safe Schools within Department of  
292 Education. Funding for such program shall be annually allocated  
293 from the Education Enhancement Trust Fund.

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

301 that have successfully complied with s. 1006.07(7)(f) for 3 or  
302 more consecutive years.

303 (2) Annually, the office shall determine each school's  
304 eligibility for a grant by ensuring compliance with s.  
305 1006.07(7)(f). A school that does not comply with s.  
306 1006.07(7)(f) shall lose its grant eligibility as follows:

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

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

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

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

319  
320 If 5 percent or more of the schools within a school district  
321 fail to comply at least once within a 7-year period, the school  
322 district must retrain all staff personnel within the school  
323 district and shall have the amount of grant funds for which its  
324 schools are eligible reduced by 30 percent. Any reduction in the  
325 amount of funding for which such schools are eligible shall be

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326 | applied to the following school year.

327 |       (3) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
328 | administer this section.

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