

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education

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BILL: CS/SB 1470

INTRODUCER: Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education and Senator Burgess

SUBJECT: School Safety

DATE: March 26, 2025

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Brick</u>	<u>Bouck</u>	<u>ED</u>	<b>Favorable</b>
2.	<u>Gray</u>	<u>Elwell</u>	<u>AED</u>	<b>Fav/CS</b>
3.	_____	_____	<u>FP</u>	_____

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**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

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**I. Summary:**

CS/SB 1470 strengthens school safety measures, enhances behavioral threat management protocols, expands oversight of school security personnel, and clarifies campus security requirements. Specifically, the bill:

- Aligns the training and certification requirements for school security guards with those for school guardians and requires that all security guards be trained and approved by a sheriff.
- Clarifies participation in the school security guard program to private schools, ensuring they meet the same training and screening requirements as public schools.
- Enhances reporting requirements for school security guards and safe-school officers, requiring employment and disciplinary actions to be reported to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).
- Mandates that security guards submit the results of the required psychological evaluation to the sheriff for review.
- Clarifies that locked campus requirements apply only during school supervision hours, rather than whenever students are present.
- Expands the use of firearm detection canines by authorizing school districts, in addition to law enforcement agencies, to employ them for school security.
- Establishes a formal partnership between OSS and the Florida Association of School Safety Specialists (FS3) to develop training and certification programs for school safety personnel.
- Requires the Office of Safe Schools to convene a stakeholder work group to develop recommendations for the establishment of a Florida Institute of School Safety.

- Requires the Department of Education to establish and maintain a centralized system that integrates panic alert systems and digital school maps used by public schools.

This bill appropriates for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the sum of \$450,000 in recurring general revenue funds to the Department of Education to implement the provisions of the centralized alert system. **See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.**

The bill takes effect July 1, 2025

## II. Present Situation:

### **Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program**

#### *School Guardian Training*

Florida law requires sheriffs to assist district school boards, charter school governing boards, and private schools in exercising options for safe-school officers. Each sheriff must provide access to the 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.

A sheriff who establishes a guardian program must consult with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) on programmatic guiding principles, practices, and resources, and is responsible for certifying school employees as school guardians if they meet statutory qualifications, including:

- Holding a license to carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm.
- Completing 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.
- Passing a psychological evaluation.
- Submitting to and passing an initial drug test and subsequent random drug tests.
- Successfully completing ongoing annual training, weapon inspection, and firearm qualification.<sup>1</sup>

A sheriff who conducts the training or waives training requirements must issue a school guardian certificate and maintain detailed records of training, inspections, and certifications.<sup>2</sup>

#### *Permitless Carry and Guardian Training Eligibility*

A sheriff may only certify school employees as school guardians if they hold a concealed weapon or concealed firearm license under s. 790.06, F.S.<sup>3</sup> However, in 2023, Florida enacted permitless concealed carry under s. 790.01(1), F.S., allowing individuals to carry a concealed firearm without obtaining a license under s. 790.06, F.S.<sup>4</sup> Current law does not explicitly

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<sup>1</sup> Section 30.15(1), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* authorizes a sheriff to waive the guardian training requirements for a person who meets specified statutory criminal justice training standards and law enforcement qualifications.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> Section 790.01(1), F.S.

authorize sheriffs to provide guardian training to individuals who are legally permitted to carry under Chapter 790, F.S., without a license.

## **Sheriff and School Guardian Reporting Requirements**

### ***Sheriff Reporting Responsibilities***

A sheriff who issues a school guardian certificate must report to FDLE the name, date of birth, and certification date of the school guardian within 30 days. Additionally, each sheriff must submit quarterly reports to FDLE detailing:

- Upcoming school guardian training schedules.
- Training dates, locations, and registration contacts.
- Class capacity for training programs.

The FDLE must publish and update these reports at least quarterly on its website.

Sheriffs who fail to comply with these reporting requirements are ineligible to receive reimbursement from the Department of Education (DOE) for school guardian training expenses. However, upon submission of the required reports, sheriffs regain eligibility.<sup>5</sup>

### ***School District, Charter School, and Private School Reporting Requirements***

By February 1 and September 1 of each school year, each school district, charter school, and private school must report to the FDLE:

- The name, date of birth, and appointment date of each school guardian.
- The date of separation for any school guardian no longer serving in that capacity.

Failure to comply prohibits the school from operating a school guardian program in the following school year unless missing information is submitted.<sup>6</sup>

### ***The FDLE Responsibilities and Enforcement***

The FDLE must maintain a statewide list of all school guardians. This list must include:

- The guardian's name, certification date, and appointment date.
- The name of the appointing school district, charter school, or private school.
- Any additional information regarding misconduct or firearm discharges, except those occurring during training.
- The date a guardian separated from their appointment, if applicable.<sup>7</sup>

The FDLE must remove from the list any school guardian whose training has expired.

By March 1 and October 1 of each school year, the FDLE must notify the Department of Education of any sheriff, school district, charter school, or private school that has failed to comply with these reporting requirements.

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<sup>5</sup> Section 30.15, F.S.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

The FDLE is authorized to adopt rules to implement these reporting requirements and may require additional identifying information as necessary to ensure accurate record-keeping of school guardians.<sup>8</sup>

Currently, 53 counties participate in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program.<sup>9</sup>

### **Behavioral Threat Management and School Safety Oversight**

Florida law establishes the Office of Safe Schools (OSS) within the DOE to serve as the central authority for school safety, overseeing training standards, best practices, and compliance measures.<sup>10</sup>

The OSS develops, administers, and ensures compliance with Florida's statewide behavioral threat management framework, which includes a standardized threat assessment process, a digital reporting portal, and oversight of school-based and district-level threat management teams.<sup>11</sup>

The OSS is also required to develop and implement a School Safety Specialist Training Program for school safety specialists, based on national and state best practices on school safety and security and must include active shooter training.<sup>12</sup>

### ***Behavioral Threat Management Operational Process***

The OSS is responsible for developing a statewide behavioral threat management operational process to assist school districts, charter school governing boards, and individual schools in identifying, assessing, managing, and monitoring potential threats. This process includes:

- Establishing and defining the duties of threat management teams.
- Developing criteria for behavioral risk and threat assessment.
- Implementing intervention, school support, and community services procedures.
- Providing guidelines for law enforcement intervention and risk management procedures.
- Establishing monitoring mechanisms for ongoing threats and interventions.
- Requiring schools to use the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument to coordinate interventions for students who may pose a threat.

Each school district, charter school governing board, and individual school must use the statewide behavioral threat management operational process upon its availability.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, & Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program*, <https://www.fldoe.org/safe-schools/guardian-program.stml> (last visited Mar. 14, 2025).

<sup>10</sup> Section 1001.212, F.S.

<sup>11</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Florida Harm Prevention and Threat Management Manual, Rule 6A-1.0019, F.A.C.*, available at <https://flrules.org/gateway/ruleno.asp?id=6A-1.0019>.

<sup>12</sup> Section 1001.212(4), F.S.

<sup>13</sup> Section 1001.212(11)(a), F.S.

### ***Florida-Specific Behavioral Threat Assessment Instrument***

The OSS is required to develop the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument, which school districts, charter schools, and governing boards must use to evaluate student threats and coordinate intervention services. The assessment instrument:

- Includes a standardized threat assessment report containing documentation of evaluations, interventions, and ongoing monitoring.
- Establishes procedures for assessing student, family, school, and social dynamics when determining threat levels.
- Outlines requirements for school responses, law enforcement engagement, and mental health provider coordination in response to threats.
- Is integrated into the statewide digital threat management portal, where records are retained in accordance with State Board of Education (SBE) rules.<sup>14</sup>

### ***Threat Management Portal and Data Access Restrictions***

The OSS is responsible for developing, maintaining, and administering a statewide digital threat management portal to support behavioral threat assessment and intervention efforts. The portal digitizes the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument and is used by school districts, charter schools, and school governing boards for reporting, documentation, and coordination of student threat assessments.<sup>15</sup>

Florida law strictly regulates access to records maintained in the portal:

- The OSS and its system administrators may not access a threat assessment report, its corresponding documentation, or any other information stored in the portal.
- School districts and charter school governing boards may not access education records within the portal unless authorized by SBE rule.
- Parents may access their own child's education records in the portal but are not permitted direct access to the portal itself.
- The portal must have security controls that alert system administrators to any unauthorized access attempts.

Florida law further requires:

- Education records stored in the portal to be retained, maintained, and transferred only in compliance with SBE rule.
- A quarterly portal access review audit process to be developed and implemented by the OSS.
- Annual role-based training for authorized users of the portal to be provided by the OSS beginning August 1, 2025.
- Any unauthorized access, use, or release of an education record in the portal to be punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Section 1001.212(11)(b), F.S.

<sup>15</sup> Section 1001.212(11)(c), F.S.

<sup>16</sup> *Id.*

## **Federal and State Privacy Protections for Student Records**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, is the primary federal law governing access to student education records. FERPA prohibits the disclosure of personally identifiable information (PII) from student education records without prior written parental consent, unless an exception applies.<sup>17</sup>

FERPA applies to any educational institution receiving federal funds, including Florida's public schools, charter schools, and state education agencies.<sup>18</sup> Education records include records that are directly related to a student and maintained by an educational agency or institution.<sup>19</sup>

Florida law further aligns with FERPA by stating that education records may not be disclosed without consent except as authorized by FERPA or other federal regulations.<sup>20</sup>

### ***Exceptions to FERPA's General Prohibition on Disclosure***

#### **State Program Audits and Compliance Monitoring**

FERPA authorizes the disclosure of student records without parental consent to state and local educational authorities for the purpose of audits, program evaluations, and compliance monitoring related to state-supported education programs.<sup>21</sup> This exception could permit the OSS to access threat assessment records if the access is necessary to monitor compliance with state safety policies.

#### **Student Safety and Health Exceptions**

FERPA's health or safety emergency exception allows schools to disclose student education records without parental consent when necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.<sup>22</sup> Disclosure under this provision must be limited to appropriate parties, such as law enforcement, school officials, or state safety agencies, who require the information to address an imminent threat.<sup>23</sup>

This exception may justify the OSS's access to student threat assessment records if the access is necessary to protect student safety and prevent school violence. However, disclosures under the health or safety emergency exception must be limited to the duration of the emergency, and routine access to records would not be justified under this exception alone.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 C.F.R. § 99.30.

<sup>18</sup> 34 C.F.R. § 99.1.

<sup>19</sup> 34 C.F.R. § 99.3.

<sup>20</sup> Section 1002.221, F.S.

<sup>21</sup> 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 C.F.R. § 99.31.

<sup>22</sup> 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 C.F.R. § 99.36.

<sup>23</sup> 34 C.F.R. § 99.36(b).

<sup>24</sup> 34 C.F.R. § 99.36(c).

## **District School Board Responsibilities for School Safety**

### ***Emergency Alert Procedures***

Each public school, including charter schools, is required to implement a mobile panic alert system capable of connecting diverse emergency services technologies to ensure real-time coordination between multiple first responder agencies. Such system, known as “Alyssa's Alert,” integrates with local public safety answering point infrastructure to transmit 911 calls and mobile activations.<sup>25</sup>

A public school district may also implement additional strategies or systems to ensure real-time coordination between multiple first responder agencies in a school security emergency.<sup>26</sup>

### ***Emergency Alert Procedures***

Each district school board is required to provide for the control, safety, and welfare of students on school campuses, including implementing security measures to prevent violence and unauthorized access. Each district school superintendent must establish policies and procedures for preventing violence on school grounds, including assessing and intervening with individuals who may pose a threat.<sup>27</sup>

Florida law also establishes specific locked campus requirements to regulate access to school buildings, classrooms, and campus gates. Each school district and charter school governing board must comply with statewide school safety requirements, which mandate:

- Locking all gates and access points that restrict ingress to or egress from a school campus when students are on campus, unless actively staffed, permitted under a shared-use agreement, or exempted by the school safety specialist based on other security measures.
- Keeping all school classroom doors and instructional spaces locked when occupied by students, except between class periods or when actively staffed at the door.
- Securing all campus access doors, gates, and entry points to school buildings at all times to prevent unauthorized ingress, unless a person is actively entering or exiting, or an exemption has been documented by the school safety specialist.
- Clearly marking the safest areas for sheltering in place within each classroom and instructional space, with students being notified of these locations within the first 10 days of the school year.<sup>28</sup>

### ***Enforcement and Compliance***

Each school district and charter school must document compliance with these requirements through the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT),<sup>29</sup> maintained by the OSS. The OSS

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<sup>25</sup> Section 1006.07(4)(c), F.S.

<sup>26</sup> Section 1006.07(4)(d), F.S.

<sup>27</sup> Section 1006.07, F.S.

<sup>28</sup> Section 1006.07(6), F.S.

<sup>29</sup> Section 1006.1493, F.S. The Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT) is a statewide risk assessment and compliance monitoring system used by school districts and charter schools to evaluate school safety, identify security vulnerabilities, and document compliance with statutory safety requirements.

is authorized to conduct compliance visits to verify whether school safety specialists have appropriately documented exemptions or security adjustments.<sup>30</sup>

### **Safe-School Officer Requirements**

Florida law requires each public school, including charter schools, to have at least one safe-school officer assigned to its facility. School districts may partner with law enforcement agencies or private security agencies to meet this requirement through any combination of the following safe-school officer options:

- School resource officers (sworn law enforcement officers).
- School safety officers (sworn law enforcement officers who are employed by the school district).
- School guardians (trained school personnel or volunteers who complete guardian program training).
- School security guards (contracted private security personnel meeting state training and screening requirements).<sup>31</sup>

### ***School Security Guards and Required Screening***

A school district or charter school governing board may contract with a licensed security agency to employ a school security guard to fulfill the safe-school officer requirement. To serve in this role, an individual must:<sup>32</sup>

- Hold a valid Class “D” (unarmed security) and Class “G” (armed security) license under Chapter 493, F.S.<sup>33</sup>
- Complete 144 hours of required guardian program training.<sup>34</sup>
- Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a licensed psychologist, with the results submitted to the sheriff’s office, school district, or charter school governing board.
- Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent random drug tests, following state drug-free workplace regulations and applicable school district policies.
- Complete ongoing annual training, weapon inspections, and firearm qualifications, providing documentation to the appropriate contracting entity.<sup>35</sup>

Additionally, contracts between a school district, charter school, or private security agency must specify who is responsible for training, inspection, and record maintenance related to school security guard qualifications.<sup>36</sup>

### **Florida Safe Schools Canine Program**

Florida law establishes the Florida Safe Schools Canine Program under the OSS within the DOE to support the use of firearm detection canines in K-12 schools. The program was created to:

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<sup>30</sup> Section 1001.212(14), F.S.

<sup>31</sup> Section 1006.12, F.S.

<sup>32</sup> Section 1006.12(4), F.S.

<sup>33</sup> Section 493.6101(18), F.S.

<sup>34</sup> Section 30.15(1), F.S.

<sup>35</sup> Section 1006.12, F.S.

<sup>36</sup> *Id.*



- Encourage partnerships between schools, businesses, and law enforcement agencies to fund the acquisition, training, and care of firearm detection canines.
- Enhance school safety by increasing the presence of firearm detection canines in schools, reinforcing public confidence in law enforcement's role in school security.<sup>37</sup>

A firearm detection canine is defined as any canine that is owned or the service of which is employed by a law enforcement agency for use in K-12 schools for the primary purpose of detecting firearms and ammunition.<sup>38</sup> These canines must be trained to interact with children and may also be trained as animal-assisted therapy canines.<sup>39</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill strengthens school safety measures, enhances behavioral threat management protocols, expands oversight of school security personnel, and clarifies campus security requirements.

#### **Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program**

The bill amends s. 30.15, F.S., to modify training, certification, and oversight requirements for school guardians and school security guards. Specifically, the bill:

- Aligns the training and certification requirements for school security guards with those for school guardians, establishing consistent standards across both roles.
- Requires a sheriff to establish a school guardian program if a school board, charter school, or private school contracts for the use of school security guards.
- Authorizes private schools to contract for school security guards and allows a sheriff to establish a guardian program to provide training for private school security guards.
- Clarifies that security agencies are responsible for all training and screening-related costs for school security guards, which may not be waived by sheriffs, preventing the use of state funds for private security agency expenses. The bill clarifies that the fee a sheriff may charge a security agency for guardian training may not exceed the actual cost incurred by the sheriff to provide the training.
- Requires sheriffs to maintain documentation of training, certification, weapon inspection, and firearm qualification records for each certified school security guard.
- Specifies that a school security guard who has completed the guardian training program is not required to complete another guardian training program unless there has been at least a one-year break in appointment as a school guardian or employment as a school security guard.
- Authorizes a sheriff to provide guardian training to individuals who are legally permitted to possess or carry a concealed firearm under Florida law, aligning with the state's permitless carry provisions.
- Requires a sheriff to provide guardian training only to individuals who have already satisfied all background screening, psychological evaluation, and drug test requirements.
- Requires a sheriff to issue a school security guard certificate to individuals who meet all statutory screening, training, and experience requirements and to maintain documentation of

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<sup>37</sup> Section 1006.121(1), F.S.

<sup>38</sup> Section 1006.121(2), F.S.

<sup>39</sup> Section 1006.121(3), F.S.

weapon and equipment inspections, training, certification, and qualification records for each certified school security guard.

### **Sheriff and School Guardian Reporting Requirements**

To streamline reporting processes and enhance oversight, the bill aligns school security guard reporting requirements with those for school guardians. Specifically, the bill:

- Aligns school security guard reporting and recordkeeping requirements with those for school guardians and mandates that security agencies report to the FDLE the date a school security guard was last employed in a school.
- Clarifies that the fee a sheriff may charge a security agency for guardian training may not exceed the actual cost incurred by the sheriff to provide the training.
- Specifies that if no guardian or security guard training sessions are scheduled, the sheriff is not required to submit a quarterly training report to the FDLE.
- Removes outdated reporting requirements for sheriffs, school districts, charter schools, and private schools regarding school guardian certifications and appointments.

### **Behavioral Threat Management and School Safety Oversight**

The bill amends s. 1001.212, F.S., to modify the duties of the OSS related to threat assessment processes and security exceptions. Specifically, the bill:

- Clarifies that the OSS is responsible for maintaining the statewide behavioral threat management operational process and the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.
- Authorizes the State Board of Education to establish in rule when the OSS or its system administrators may access a threat assessment report, related documentation, or any other information required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument maintained in the portal. Access must comply with state and federal privacy laws.
- Requires the OSS to convene a stakeholder work group to develop recommendations for the establishment of a Florida Institute of School Safety. The work group must include representatives from postsecondary institutions, law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services, emergency management, school facilities staff, school safety specialists, school administrators, superintendents, school-based mental health professionals, and threat management practitioners. The recommendations must address potential programs and functions to enhance school safety. The Office must submit its finding and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2026.

The bill amends s. 1006.07, F.S., to require the Department of Education to establish and maintain a centralized system that integrates panic alert systems and digital school maps used by public schools, charter schools, and other educational institutions. The centralized system must:

- Receive and process alerts from Department-approved panic alert systems.
- Integrate digital maps to provide real-time situational awareness for law enforcement and emergency responders.
- Store and provide access to historical alert data for authorized state agencies.

The bill also requires that:

All public and charter schools connect their panic alert systems to the centralized system.

- Panic alert systems be interoperable with the centralized system to ensure seamless communication with emergency personnel.
- Digital maps required under s. 1013.13, F.S., be integrated into the centralized system to support emergency response coordination.

### **District School Board Responsibilities for School Safety**

The bill also amends s. 1006.07, F.S., to modify locked campus and building requirements to apply only during school supervision hours rather than whenever students are present. It also clarifies when certain access points may remain unlocked. Specifically, the bill:

- Authorizes an exception to the requirement that campus areas and school buildings remain locked, permitting an access point to be unlocked if another closed and locked gate or access point separates it from areas occupied by students for campus areas, or if another closed and locked door, gate, or access point prevents access to a school building.
- Defines "school supervision hours" as the hours of the school day plus a reasonable time immediately before and after school when student supervision is available, as determined by school district policy.
- Clarifies that the exception allowing an access point to remain unlocked when it is actively staffed applies not only to campus entry points but also to school buildings when staffed by school personnel.
- Defines the terms "exclusive zone" and "nonexclusive zone" to clarify where locked access point requirements apply on a school campus. The exclusive zone refers to the interior portion of a campus that lies beyond a secured gate or door limiting access to a single point of entry. Locked access point requirements apply to this zone.
- Defines the nonexclusive zone as the area outside of the exclusive zone but still located on school property. These areas may include, but are not limited to, parking lots, athletic fields and stadiums, mechanical buildings, playgrounds, bus ramps, agricultural spaces, and other locations that do not provide direct, unimpeded access to the exclusive zone. The bill expressly states that locked access point requirements do not apply to nonexclusive zones.

The bill provides specific exemptions to the requirement that all school classrooms and other instructional spaces remain locked to prevent ingress when occupied by students. The bill allows a classroom or instructional space used for a career and technical education (CTE) program to remain unlocked if locking the space would pose a health or safety risk to students. In such cases, the school safety specialist, or his or her designee, must document in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT) that the space is used for CTE and that other safety measures are in place to prevent authorized access.

The bill also exempts common areas such as cafeterias, media centers, and auditoriums from the locked classroom requirement, except when those spaces are being used for instructional time or student testing.

The bill requires that each substitute teacher be provided with all school safety protocols and policies before their first day of substitute teaching at a school.

### **Safe-School Officer Requirements**

The bill amends s. 1006.12, F.S., to clarify participation in the school security guard program and increase oversight of security guard training, certification, and reporting requirements. Specifically, the bill:

- Clarifies private school authority to contract with security agencies for school security guards.
- Requires private schools contracting for security guards to adhere to all training and screening requirements applicable to public schools.
- Requires that all school security guards be trained by a sheriff pursuant to the training requirements of the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program.
- Mandates that security guards be approved by the sheriff of each county in which the school security guard will be assigned to a school before being assigned to a school in that county.
- Requires that school security guards submit the results of the required psychological evaluation to the sheriff for review.
- Mandates that all ongoing training, weapon inspections, and firearm qualifications for school security guards be conducted by a sheriff or through a sheriff-approved program.

The bill adds private school administrators to the notification requirements concerning safe-school officer misconduct and firearm discharges, supporting uniform reporting across all schools utilizing safe-school officers. The bill requires the OSS to provide the FDLE with any information it receives from a district school superintendent or charter school administrator, private school administrator, or respective designee concerning a school security guard who:

- Is dismissed for misconduct or is otherwise disciplined.
- Discharges his or her firearm in the exercise of the school security guard's duties, other than for training purposes.

### **Florida Safe Schools Canine Program**

The bill expands the definition of the term "firearm detection canine" in s. 1006.121(2), F.S., to authorize school districts, rather than just law enforcement agencies, to employ firearm detection canines and specify that only sworn law enforcement officers may use the canines in K-12 schools.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.

## **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

This bill appropriates, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the sum of \$450,000 in recurring general revenue funds, to the Department of Education to implement the centralized system to integrate all panic alert systems and digital school maps used by public schools, charter schools, and other educational institutions, and for schools to connect their panic alert systems to the centralized system.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 30.15, 1001.212, 1006.07, 1006.12, and 1006.121.

**IX. Additional Information:**

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**CS by Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education on March 24, 2025:**

The committee substitute:

- Clarifies that the fee a sheriff may charge a security agency for guardian training may not exceed the actual cost incurred by the sheriff to provide the training.
- Replaces the provision requiring the Office of Safe Schools (OSS) to partner with the Florida Association of School Safety Specialists with a requirement that the OSS convene a stakeholder workgroup to develop recommendations for establishing a Florida Institute of School Safety, with findings due to the Governor and Legislature by January 1, 2026.
- Removes the requirement for OSS to maintain a list of exceptions to locked access point requirements.
- Defines the terms “exclusive zone” and “non-exclusive zone” and applies locked access point requirements only to the exclusive zone.
- Removes the provision authorizing the OSS to recognize exceptions to locked classroom requirements.
- Adds specific exceptions to locked classroom requirements for certain career and technical education (CTE) instructional spaces and common areas.
- Applies locked school building requirements to schools that do not have a secure exclusive zone, as a conforming change.
- Requires substitute teachers to be provided with all school safety protocols and policies before their first day of substitute teaching.

The committee substitute requires the Department of Education (DOE) to establish and maintain a centralized system that integrates panic alert systems and digital school maps used by public schools, charter schools, and other educational institutions. The centralized system must:

- Receive and process alerts from DOE-approved panic alert systems.
- Integrate digital maps to provide real-time situational awareness for law enforcement and emergency responders.
- Store and provide access to historical alert data for authorized state agencies.

The committee substitute also requires that:

- All public and charter schools connect their panic alert systems to the centralized system.
- Panic alert systems be interoperable with the centralized system to ensure seamless communication with emergency personnel.
- Digital maps required under s. 1013.13, F.S., be integrated into the centralized system to support emergency response coordination.

The committee substitute appropriates, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the sum of \$450,000 in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund to the DOE to implement a centralized system to integrate all panic alert systems and digital school maps used by

public schools, charter schools, and other educational institutions, and for schools to connect their panic alert systems to the centralized system.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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