

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to student elopement; creating s.
3 1003.211, F.S.; providing definitions; requiring
4 public schools to create a School Staff Assistance for
5 Emergencies (SAFE) Team and a school elopement plan;
6 providing requirements for the plan; providing for
7 membership and responsibilities of the SAFE team;
8 requiring the SAFE team to create student-specific
9 elopement quick reference guides for certain students;
10 providing requirements for such guides; requiring
11 public schools to annually submit their plans to the
12 district school board; authorizing the State Board of
13 Education to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

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

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17 **Section 1. Section 1003.211, Florida Statutes, is created**
18 **to read:**

19 1003.211 School elopement plans.—

20 (1) For purposes of this section, the term:

21 (a) "Disability" means, for a student in kindergarten
22 through grade 12, an autism spectrum disorder, as defined in the
23 Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth
24 Edition, published by the American Psychiatric Association, or
25 an intellectual disability, as defined in s. 393.063.

26 (b) "Elopement" means when a student with disabilities
27 wanders away, walks away, runs away, escapes, or otherwise
28 leaves the supervision of school staff or leaves school grounds
29 unsupervised or unnoticed before the end of his or her scheduled
30 school day.

31 (2) To ensure the safety of students with disabilities at
32 risk of elopement, each public school shall create a School
33 Staff Assistance for Emergencies (SAFE) Team and a school
34 elopement plan. The plan must include procedures for immediately
35 contacting the student's parent if a student with disabilities
36 elopes.

37 (3) The school principal and assistant principal shall
38 serve on the SAFE Team and the school principal shall appoint at
39 least five other members to serve on the team. The SAFE Team
40 shall:

41 (a) Create and annually update the school elopement plan
42 and respond to all elopements.

43 (b) Provide training to all school personnel to
44 familiarize such personnel with the school elopement plan and
45 all necessary procedures.

46 (4) (a) If a student with disabilities is prone to
47 elopement, the SAFE Team, in coordination with the student's
48 parent, must create a student-specific elopement quick reference
49 guide. The elopement quick reference guide must include all of
50 the following:

- 51 1. The student's identifying information.
- 52 2. A current photograph of the student.
- 53 3. The student's level of communication.
- 54 4. A list of the student's interests, behaviors,
- 55 preferences, and aversions.
- 56 5. Any health considerations for the student.
- 57 6. A list of any GPS technology that could be used to help
- 58 locate the student.
- 59 7. A list of possible locations where the student may go
- 60 when eloping.
- 61 (b) The SAFE Team must distribute a student's elopement
- 62 quick reference guide to the student's parent and all relevant
- 63 school personnel.
- 64 (5) Each public school must annually provide its elopement
- 65 plan to the district school board.
- 66 (6) The state board may adopt rules to administer this
- 67 section.
- 68 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.