

By Senator Calatayud

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to school safety equipment; amending  
s. 1001.212, F.S.; revising the purpose of specified  
grants awarded by the Office of Safe Schools; amending  
ss. 1002.42 and 1006.07, F.S.; defining terms;  
requiring private schools and public schools,  
including charter schools, respectively, to have  
specified safety equipment on each campus of the  
school; requiring the Department of Education, in  
coordination with the Department of Law Enforcement,  
to establish minimum specifications for such  
equipment; authorizing schools to use specified funds  
to meet the requirements of such safety equipment;  
providing training requirements for such safety  
equipment; requiring schools to report specified  
information to the office; authorizing the office to  
conduct random audits for specified purposes;  
providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 1001.212, Florida  
Statutes, is 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

38-01515-26

20261174\_\_

efforts, intervention efforts, and emergency preparedness planning. The office shall:

(9) Award grants to schools to improve the safety and security of schools ~~school buildings~~ based upon recommendations of the security risk assessment developed pursuant to subsection (1) or as provided in s. 1002.42(21).

Section 2. Subsection (21) is added to section 1002.42, Florida Statutes, to read:

1002.42 Private schools.—

(21) SCHOOL SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS.—

(a) For purposes of this subsection, the term:

1. "Ballistic shield" means a mobile protective device meeting the National Institute of Justice's Level IIIA ballistic resistance standards or higher.

2. "Breaching tool" means a device designed to provide rapid access to locked or barricaded doors in an emergency, including, but not limited to, a Halligan bar, sledgehammer, or hydraulic breaching tool approved by a local law enforcement agency.

3. "Campus" means the grounds and facilities of a private school.

(b) Each private school shall have at least one breaching tool and one ballistic shield on each campus of the school for use in the event of an active assailant or other life-threatening incident. The Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Law Enforcement, shall establish minimum specifications for breaching tools and ballistic shields.

(c) Each private school may use existing grants from the

38-01515-26

20261174\_\_

59 School Hardening Grant Program as funded by the Legislature or  
60 may use other available state or private funds to meet the  
61 requirements of this subsection.

62 (d) Each private school shall ensure that at least one  
63 school employee or the school's safe-school officer receives  
64 annual training on the deployment and safe use of the equipment  
65 required under this subsection. The training must be conducted  
66 in coordination with the sheriff's office or a local law  
67 enforcement agency having jurisdiction.

68 (e) Each private school shall annually report to the Office  
69 of Safe Schools, in a format prescribed by the office, that the  
70 equipment required under this section is present on each campus,  
71 functional, and accessible. The office may conduct random audits  
72 to verify compliance with this subsection.

73 Section 3. Paragraph (i) is added to subsection (6) of  
74 section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, to read:

75 1006.07 District school board duties relating to student  
76 discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall  
77 provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the  
78 attendance and control of students at school, and for proper  
79 attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the  
80 welfare of students, including:

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

86 (i) School safety equipment requirements.—

87 1. For purposes of this paragraph, the term:

38-01515-26

20261174\_\_

88       a. "Ballistic shield" means a mobile protective device  
89 meeting the National Institute of Justice's Level IIIA ballistic  
90 resistance standards or higher.

91       b. "Breaching tool" means a device designed to provide  
92 rapid access to locked or barricaded doors in an emergency,  
93 including, but not limited to, a Halligan bar, sledgehammer, or  
94 hydraulic breaching tool approved by a local law enforcement  
95 agency.

96       c. "Campus" means the grounds and facilities of a public  
97 school, including charter schools.

98       2. Each public school, including charter schools, shall  
99 have at least one breaching tool and one ballistic shield on  
100 each campus of the school for use in the event of an active  
101 assailant or other life-threatening incident. The Department of  
102 Education, in consultation with the Department of Law  
103 Enforcement, shall establish minimum specifications for  
104 breaching tools and ballistic shields.

105       3. Each school may use existing grants from the School  
106 Hardening Grant Program as funded by the Legislature or may use  
107 other state or private funds to meet the requirements of this  
108 paragraph.

109       4. Each school shall ensure that at least one school  
110 employee or the school's safe-school officer receives annual  
111 training on the deployment and safe use of the equipment  
112 required under this paragraph. The training must be conducted in  
113 coordination with the sheriff's office or a local law  
114 enforcement agency having jurisdiction.

115       5. Each school shall annually report to the Office of Safe  
116 Schools, in a format prescribed by the office, that the

38-01515-26

20261174\_\_

equipment required under this section is present on each campus,  
functional, and accessible. The office may conduct random audits  
to verify compliance with this paragraph.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.