

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to school safety equipment; amending
3 s. 1001.212, F.S.; revising the purpose of specified
4 grants awarded by the Office of Safe Schools;
5 amending ss. 1002.42 and 1006.07, F.S.; providing
6 definitions; requiring private schools and public
7 schools, including charter schools, to have specified
8 safety equipment on each campus of the school;
9 requiring the Department of Education, in coordination
10 with the Department of Law Enforcement, to establish
11 minimum specifications for such equipment; authorizing
12 schools to use specified funds to meet the
13 requirements of such safety equipment; providing
14 training requirements for such safety equipment;
15 requiring schools to report specified information to
16 the Office of Safe Schools; authorizing the office to
17 conduct random audits for specified purposes;
18 providing an effective date.

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

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22 **Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 1001.212, Florida**
23 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

24 1001.212 Office of Safe Schools.—There is created in the
25 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 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, sledge hammer, or hydraulic breaching tool approved by a local law enforcement agency.

3. "Campus" means the grounds and facilities of a private school where students are regularly educated.

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

58 (c) Each private school may use existing grants from the
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 must 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 must 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, functional,
71 and accessible. The office may conduct random audits to verify
72 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:

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, sledge hammer, 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, where students are regularly
98 educated.

99 2. Each public school, including charter schools, must
100 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.

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

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

5. Each school must annually report to the Office of Safe
Schools, in a format prescribed by the office, that the
equipment required under this section is present, 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.