

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

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BILL #: [CS/CS/HB 757](#)

TITLE: School Safety

SPONSOR(S): Salzman and Rizo

COMPANION BILL: [CS/CS/SB 896](#) (Gaetz)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION: 88 Y's 20 N's **GOVERNOR'S ACTION:** Pending

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill makes several changes related to school safety, including:

- Authorizing employees and faculty members of public postsecondary educational institutions (institutions) to participate in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel School Guardian Program, if appointed by an institution's president.
- Prohibiting a person from discharging a weapon or firearm within 1,000 feet of a school, during school hours or during the time of a sanctioned school activity, a violation of which is punishable as a second degree felony.
- Requiring institutions that do not have a public safety reporting application to promote the use of the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool, FortifyFL, and to install or bookmark a link to the tool on specified devices issued or maintained by such institutions.
- Requiring specified records related to a student's behavior, including threat assessment reports, and student psychological evaluations to be transferred from a K-12 school to a Florida College System institution or state university upon his or her enrollment.
- Requiring district school safety specialists to explain the purpose, importance, and proper execution of specified school safety training protocols and procedures.
- Requiring institutions to adopt an active assailant response plan, annually conduct a security risk assessment, train faculty to detect and respond to mental health issues, connect students with mental health services, establish threat management teams, and adopt policies relating to supports for students, faculty, and staff.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill may have an indeterminate impact on state expenditures.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

Guardian Program

The bill adds public postsecondary educational institutions¹ to the list of entities authorized to participate in the [Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel School Guardian Program](#) (Guardian Program), and authorizes the presidents of such institutions to appoint employees or faculty members to serve as school guardians. As with other entities that participate in the guardian program, public postsecondary educational institutions that elect to participate are required to verify that guardians meet the statutory requirements as well as report guardian information to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). Public postsecondary educational institutions, in counties where the sheriff does not operate a Guardian Program, may have their guardians trained by a sheriff in another county. The sheriff providing the required training for guardians at public postsecondary educational institutions will be reimbursed the costs, so there is no cost to the public postsecondary educational institutions or the sheriff. (Sections [1](#) and [7](#))

¹ Public postsecondary educational institutions include workforce education; Florida College System institutions; state universities; and all other state-supported postsecondary educational institutions that are authorized and established by law. [S. 1000.04\(3\), F.S.](#)

STORAGE NAME: h0757z

DATE: 3/23/2026

Possessing or Discharging Weapons or Firearms on School Property

Effective October 1, 2026, the bill expands the existing prohibition against [discharging a weapon or firearm](#) at a school-sponsored event or on the property of any school,² school bus, or school bus stop to also prohibit a person from discharging a weapon or firearm *within 1,000 feet* of a school, during school hours or during the time of a sanctioned school activity, unless:

- The person discharges the weapon or firearm for the lawful defense of himself, herself, or another person; or
- If the person’s presence on such property has been authorized, licensed, or invited by the owner.

A violation is punishable as a second degree felony³ and is ranked as a level 6 offense on the [offense severity ranking chart](#). Under the bill, a person who is arrested for discharging a weapon or firearm within 1,000 feet of a school or who is arrested for discharging a weapon or firearm at a school-sponsored event or on the property of any school, school bus, or school bus stop must be held in custody until his or her first appearance hearing.

(Sections [2](#) and [3](#))

Florida School Safety Awareness Program

The bill requires each public postsecondary educational institution that does not have an existing public safety reporting application as of July 1, 2026, to promote the use of the [mobile suspicious activity reporting tool](#), known as FortifyFL, by advertising it on the institution’s website, installing it on all mobile devices issued by the institution, and by bookmarking the website on all computer devices maintained by the institution. (Section [4](#))

Transfer of Student Records

The bill requires specified records of a student who is enrolled in a public K-12 school and who subsequently enrolls in a Florida College System institution or a state university to be transferred from the school to the college or university upon his or her enrollment. Such records include:

- Verified reports of serious or recurrent behavior patterns, including any threat assessment reports, all corresponding documentation, and any other information required by the [Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument](#).
- Psychological evaluations, including therapeutic treatment plans and therapy or progress notes created or maintained by school district or charter school staff.

The bill authorizes the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors to adopt rules and regulations to establish the procedure for the transfer of a student’s threat assessment report. (Section [5](#))

Safety and Security – Best Practices

District School Boards

The bill requires a district school safety specialist who conducts training for classroom teachers and other instructional staff members related to school safety and security, emergency procedures, and mental health awareness to also explain the purpose, importance, and proper execution of such protocols and procedures. (Section [6](#))

Public Postsecondary Educational Institutions

The bill requires each public postsecondary educational institution to adopt policies and procedures related to:

- An active assailant response plan, including requirements for issuing campus-wide alerts and developing a family reunification plan in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies and the local government.
- Student mental health, including training faculty to detect and respond to mental health issues, connecting students with appropriate mental health services, and establishing threat management teams, which must use the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument or another comparable tool.

² A “school” means any preschool, elementary school, middle school, junior high school, secondary school, career center, or postsecondary school, whether public or nonpublic. [S. 790.115\(2\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

³ A second degree felony is punishable by up to 15 years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine. [Ss. 775.082, 775.083, or 775.084, F.S.](#)

- Security risk assessments, which must be conducted annually using the [Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool](#) or another comparable tool.
- Posting on its website and in conspicuous locations at each institution, a mental health awareness and suicide prevention sign that identifies ways to access help and services.
- Providing support for students, faculty and staff who are the victims of acts of violence, attempted acts of violence, or subjected to credible threats as defined in statute. (Section [7](#))

The bill authorizes a public postsecondary educational institution to apply for grant funds for security improvements based on the security risk assessment, subject to an appropriation. (Section [7](#))

The bill authorizes the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors to adopt rules and regulations to implement the safety and security procedures required under the bill. (Section [7](#))

Section 1006.601, F.S., which is created by the bill, is named the “Active Response and Mitigation of On-Campus Risks (ARMOR) Act.” (Section [7](#))

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law, except as otherwise provided. (Section [13](#))

RULEMAKING:

The bill authorizes the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors to adopt rules to implement provisions in the bill related to public postsecondary educational institutions’ participation in the Guardian Program, specified safety and security practices, and the transfer of a student’s threat assessment report.

Lawmaking is a legislative power; however, the Legislature may delegate a portion of such power to executive branch agencies to create rules that have the force of law. To exercise this delegated power, an agency must have a grant of rulemaking authority and a law to implement.

FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:

STATE GOVERNMENT:

The bill may have an indeterminate fiscal impact on state expenditures by expanding participation in the Guardian Program to public postsecondary educational institutions; requiring such institutions to adopt specified security plans, conduct an annual security risk assessment, establish threat management teams, and comply with certain training requirements; and creating a new felony offense for discharging a weapon or firearm within 1,000 feet of a school.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

State University System and Florida College System Safety Summit

On April 17, 2025, just before noon, members of the Florida State University (FSU) Police Department, along with the Tallahassee Police Department, responded to reports of an active shooting incident unfolding on FSU’s campus. A multi-agency response at the local, state and federal level immediately ensued. The entire incident was over in less than five minutes. Despite the quick response, the suspect was able to injure eight people and impact the lives of hundreds of students, faculty, staff, first responders and residents of the community.⁴

On October 8, 2025, the State University System (SUS) hosted a safety summit for university leadership and Florida College System (FCS) leaders. This event provided an opportunity for collaboration across the state on key safety

⁴ City of Tallahassee, *Tallahassee Police Provide Timeline Following FSU Active Shooter Incident*, <https://www.talgov.com/Main/News/5823> (last visited Mar. 16, 2026).

issues, including building hardening, threat assessment, and communications.⁵ The results of the summit were a series of recommendations related to the following areas of campus security:

- Building hardening;
- Threat assessment;
- Training for faculty and staff;
- Communications;
- Interagency coordination; and
- Tasks for the board office including:
 - Develop a plan with the Florida Colleges and K-12 to share information on threats and behavioral risks across systems.
 - Convene meetings of the SUS police chiefs to encourage better coordination across the System regarding safety, threat mitigation, and training.
 - Identify opportunities for collaboration with state law enforcement agencies.
 - Convene a follow-up to the SUS Safety Summit for university staff who work directly with safety, student affairs, and campus preparedness.⁶

Governance and Institutional Authority for Campus Safety Policy

The Board of Governors (BOG) has constitutional authority to regulate the SUS, and each local constituent university is administered by a 13-member board of trustees.⁷ The BOG may adopt a regulation development procedure for the BOG and university boards of trustees to use in implementing their constitutional duties and responsibilities.⁸ FCS institution boards of trustees have statutory authority to provide for risk management, safety, security, and law enforcement operations at the institution, including emergency response.⁹

Current Florida law does not require FCS or SUS institutions to adopt active assailant response plans, family reunification plans, implement threat management teams, or conduct formal, annual security risk assessments of their campuses.

State University System Emergency Management Planning

BOG regulation requires each SUS university to develop and maintain a comprehensive emergency management program and maintain a comprehensive emergency management plan and continuity of operations plan.¹⁰ The regulation also references state emergency management law that applies to state agencies and specified facilities, including requirements related to emergency coordination and disaster preparedness planning.¹¹

Federal Campus Security Disclosure Requirements

The U.S. Department of Education describes the federal campus security framework as advancing goals of keeping students, parents, and employees informed about campus security, and it states that ensuring institutional compliance and enforcement is a departmental priority.¹²

Federal regulations implementing the Clery Act framework require participating institutions to prepare and distribute an annual security report and to comply with related policy statement and campus crime statistics

⁵ Florida Board of Governors, *SUS Safety Summit*, p. 2, <https://www.flbog.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Safety-Summit-Report-DRAFT.pdf> (last visited Mar. 23, 2026).

⁶ *Id.* at 4.

⁷ Art. IX, s. 7(c), Fla. Const.

⁸ Art. IX, s. 7(d), Fla. Const. [S. 1001.706\(2\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

⁹ [S. 1001.64\(23\), F.S.](#)

¹⁰ Florida Board of Governors Regulation 3.001.

¹¹ [S. 252.365, F.S.](#); see also Florida Board of Governors Regulation 3.001 (referencing [s. 252.365, F.S.](#)).

¹² U.S. Department of Educ., Campus Security, <https://www.ed.gov/teaching-and-administration/safe-learning-environments/school-safety-and-security/campus-security>. (last visited Mar. 23, 2026).

disclosure requirements.¹³ Federal regulations also address timely warnings and require institutions to include emergency response and evacuation procedures in the annual security report.¹⁴

Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel School Guardian Program

The Guardian Program authorizes qualified school personnel to serve as an armed guard to aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises.¹⁵ A school district or charter school employee may serve as a guardian if the individual is appointed by the district school superintendent or charter school principal and is certified by a sheriff. The individual must also satisfy the following requirements:

- Hold a concealed weapons or concealed firearms license or otherwise be eligible to possess or carry a concealed firearm under ch. 790, F.S.;
- Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a licensed psychologist;
- Pass an initial drug test and subsequent random drug tests;
- Successfully complete a 144-hour training program¹⁶ that includes:
 - At least 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 specified, comprehensive firearm safety and proficiency training conducted by Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission-certified instructors, and ongoing training, weapon inspection, and firearm qualification on at least an annual basis.¹⁷

An individual must satisfy the background screening, psychological evaluation, and drug testing requirements prior to participating in the required guardian training. All training for the guardian program must be conducted by a sheriff.¹⁸

The sheriff conducting the training for school district and charter school employees will be reimbursed for screening-related and training-related costs and for providing a one-time stipend of \$500 to each school guardian who participates in the school guardian program.¹⁹

An individual certified under, and in good standing with, the Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission, and who is otherwise qualified to serve as a guardian, is exempt from the 144-hour training requirement prior to certification as a guardian.²⁰

A county sheriff must establish a program if the district school board elects to participate. The sheriff may contract with another county sheriff who has already established a program to provide training. Charter school governing boards may directly request guardian training from the county sheriff even if the school district decides not to participate. Should the sheriff deny the request, the charter school may contract with a county sheriff who is willing to provide the training.²¹ A sheriff who establishes a program may consult with the FDLE on programmatic guiding principles, practices, and resources.²²

A school guardian has no authority to act in any law enforcement capacity except to the extent necessary to prevent or abate an active assailant incident on school premises. The sheriff who conducts the guardian training must issue a school guardian certificate to individuals who meet these requirements and maintain documentation

¹³ 34 C.F.R. s. 668.46(a)-(b) (annual security report requirement).

¹⁴ 34 C.F.R. s. 668.46(e) (timely warning); 34 C.F.R. s. 668.46(j) (emergency response and evacuation procedures).

¹⁵ [S. 30.15\(1\)\(k\), F.S.](#)

¹⁶ This is the standardized training requirement for the state. A sheriff may provide additional training but cannot require an individual who has completed the standard training to undergo additional training unless they have not served as a school guardian for over a year. [S. 30.15\(1\)\(k\)1.d., F.S.](#)

¹⁷ [S. 30.15\(1\)\(k\), F.S.](#)

¹⁸ [S. 1006.12\(7\), F.S.](#)

¹⁹ [S. 30.15\(1\)\(k\)1.e., F.S.](#)

²⁰ [S. 30.15\(1\)\(k\)1.g., F.S.](#)

²¹ [S. 30.15\(1\)\(k\), F.S.](#)

²² [S. 943.03\(16\), F.S.](#)

of weapon and equipment inspections, as well as the training, certification, inspection, and qualification records of each school guardian certified by the sheriff.²³

Private Entity Participation in the Guardian Program

Private schools and licensed child care facilities are authorized to partner with a law enforcement or security agency to establish or assign a safe-school officer to their schools. The private school or child care facility is responsible for any costs associated with implementing a safe-school officer, including training under the Guardian Program. A private school or child care facility electing to establish a safe-school officer must comply with the same statutory requirements for these officers as school districts and charter schools.²⁴

If the county in which a private school or child care facility operates does not currently participate in the Guardian Program, the private school or child care facility may request their local sheriff to initiate a Guardian Program for the purpose of training private school or child care facility employees. If the local sheriff declines, the private school or child care facility may contract with a sheriff of a county that has implemented a Guardian Program to provide the necessary training. The private school or child care facility is responsible for notifying the local sheriff prior to entering into such a contract and is responsible for all costs associated with the training of private school or child care facility employees to serve as guardians. The sheriff providing guardian training to private school or child care facility employees is prohibited from comingling funds received for such training with funds received from the state for the purposes of training school district or charter school employees to serve as guardians.²⁵

While the private school or child care facility is responsible for all costs associated with its participation in the Guardian Program, a sheriff may waive training and background screening costs for a private school or child care facility participating in the school guardian program. Funds provided to the sheriff by the DOE for the school guardian program may not be used to subsidize any costs that have been waived by the sheriff.²⁶

Reporting Requirements for the Guardian Program

In 2024, the Legislature implemented new reporting requirements related to individuals certified as school guardians and serving as school guardians in school districts, charter schools, and private schools. The FDLE serves as the central repository of information regarding certified and appointed school guardians.²⁷

Each sheriff must report to the FDLE, within 30 days of such certification, each individual certified as a school guardian or school security guard.²⁸ Additionally, each school district, charter school, security agency, private school and child care facility participating in the guardian program or employing school security guards must report to the FDLE, each February 1 and September 1, the name, date of birth, and appointment date of each individual appointed as a school guardian or employed as a school security guard. Each entity must also report the end date of any appointment as a school guardian or employment as a school security guard.²⁹

Using the information from these reports, the FDLE must maintain a list of all individuals appointed as school guardians or employed as school security guards that includes name, certification date, date of appointment, including the name of the school, information reported by the DOE related to a safe-school officer discharging their firearms or being subject to discipline, and end date of appointment, if applicable. The FDLE must remove anyone from the list whose required guardian training has expired.³⁰

²³ [S. 30.15\(1\)\(k\), F.S.](#)

²⁴ [Ss. 1002.42\(20\)](#) and [402.305\(19\), F.S.](#)

²⁵ [S. 30.15\(1\)\(k\)1.c., F.S.](#)

²⁶ [S. 30.15\(1\)\(k\)1.f., F.S.](#)

²⁷ [S. 30.15\(1\)\(k\)3., F.S.](#)

²⁸ [S. 30.15\(1\)\(k\)3.a., F.S.](#)

²⁹ [S. 30.15\(1\)\(k\)3.b., F.S.](#)

³⁰ [S. 30.15\(1\)\(k\)3.c., F.S.](#)

Each sheriff must report to the FDLE, on a quarterly basis, the schedule for upcoming guardian trainings, including the dates, locations, contact person for registration, and class capacity. The FDLE is required to publish, and update quarterly, the information related to such trainings on its website.³¹

For any sheriff that fails to comply with the above reporting requirements, the sheriff is prohibited from receiving reimbursements from the DOE for costs associated with the school guardian program. For any school district, charter school, security agency, private school, or child care facility that fails to comply with the above reporting requirements, the entity is prohibited from operating a school guardian program or employing school security guards the following school year, unless the school district, charter school, security agency, private school, or child care facility has submitted the required information. Such prohibition is lifted as soon as the sheriff, school district, charter school, security agency, private school, or child care facility complies with reporting requirements. In order for the DOE to be able to enforce these prohibitions, the FDLE is required to report any non-compliance to the DOE each year by March 1 and October 1.³²

Each school district, charter school, or private school, before employing an individual as a school guardian, must contact the FLDE and review all information maintained by the FDLE related to the individual's school guardian certification and employment as a school guardian.³³

Possessing or Discharging Weapons or Firearms on School Property

A person is prohibited from willfully and knowingly possessing any firearm,³⁴ electric weapon or device,³⁵ destructive device,³⁶ or other weapon³⁷ on the property of any school,³⁸ school bus, or school bus stop, except as

³¹ [S. 30.15\(1\)\(k\)3.d., F.S.](#)

³² [S. 30.15\(1\)\(k\)3.e.-g., F.S.](#)

³³ [S. 1006.12\(3\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

³⁴ "Firearm" means any weapon (including a starter gun) which will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device; or any machine gun. The term "firearm" does not include an antique firearm unless the antique firearm is used in the commission of a crime. [S. 790.001\(9\), F.S.](#)

³⁵ "Electric weapon or device" means any device which, through the application or use of electrical current, is designed, redesigned, used, or intended to be used for offensive or defensive purposes, the destruction of life, or the infliction of injury. [S. 790.001\(7\), F.S.](#)

³⁶ "Destructive device" means any bomb, grenade, mine, rocket, missile, pipebomb, or similar device containing an explosive, incendiary, or poison gas and includes any frangible container filled with an explosive, incendiary, explosive gas, or expanding gas, which is designed or so constructed as to explode by such filler and is capable of causing bodily harm or property damage; any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into a destructive device and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled; any device declared a destructive device by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; any type of weapon which will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of any explosive and which has a barrel with a bore of one-half inch or more in diameter; and ammunition for such destructive devices, but not including shotgun shells or any other ammunition designed for use in a firearm other than a destructive device. "Destructive device" does not include:

- A device which is not designed, redesigned, used, or intended for use as a weapon;
- Any device, although originally designed as a weapon, which is redesigned so that it may be used solely as a signaling, line-throwing, safety, or similar device;
- Any shotgun other than a short-barreled shotgun; or
- Any nonautomatic rifle (other than a short-barreled rifle) generally recognized or particularly suitable for use for the hunting of big game. [S. 790.001\(6\), F.S.](#)

³⁷ "Weapon" means any dirk, knife, metallic knuckles, slungshot, billie, tear gas gun, chemical weapon or device, or other deadly weapon except a firearm or a common pocketknife, plastic knife, or blunt-bladed table knife. [S. 790.001\(20\), F.S.](#)

³⁸ "School" means any preschool, elementary school, middle school, junior high school, secondary school, career center, or postsecondary school. [S. 790.115\(2\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

authorized in support of school-sanctioned activities.³⁹ A violation is punishable as a third degree felony,⁴⁰ except that a person who is authorized to carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm is subject only to a second degree misdemeanor.⁴¹ A person who [discharges a weapon or firearm](#) at a school-sanctioned event or on the property of any school, school bus, or school bus stop is subject to a second degree felony⁴² regardless of whether he or she is authorized to carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm, unless such weapon or firearm was discharged for lawful defense of himself, herself, or another person.⁴³ A violation for discharging a weapon or firearm is ranked as a level 6 offense on the offense severity ranking chart.⁴⁴

[Offense Severity Ranking Chart](#)

Felony offenses which are subject to the Criminal Punishment Code⁴⁵ are listed in a single offense severity ranking chart (OSRC),⁴⁶ which uses 10 offense levels to rank felonies from least severe to most severe. Each felony offense listed in the OSRC is assigned a level according to the severity of the offense.^{47, 48} A person's primary offense, any other current offenses, and prior convictions are scored using the points designated for the offense severity level of each offense.^{49, 50} The final score calculation, following the scoresheet formula, determines the lowest permissible sentence that a trial court may impose, absent a valid reason for departure.⁵¹

[Florida School Safety Awareness Program](#)

The School Safety Awareness Program is a [mobile suspicious activity reporting tool](#) known as FortifyFL, which is based upon a recommendation by the students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The tool allows students and the community to share information anonymously concerning unsafe, potentially harmful, dangerous, violent, or criminal activities, or the threat of criminal activities, to the appropriate public safety agencies and school officials.⁵² The information reported using FortifyFL must be promptly forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement agency or school official.⁵³ The tool will notify the person reporting the suspicious activity that information may be provided anonymously, but if, following an investigation, it is determined that an individual knowingly submitted a false tip, the Internet Protocol (IP) address of the device from which the tip was submitted

³⁹ A person may carry a firearm at a school or school-related location:

- In a case to a firearms program, class or function which has been approved in advance by the principal or chief administrative officer of the school as a program or class to which firearms could be carried;
- In a case to a career center having a firearms training range; or
- In a vehicle pursuant to [s. 790.25\(4\), F.S.](#), except that school districts may adopt written and published policies that waive the exception in this subparagraph for purposes of student and campus parking privileges. [S. 790.115\(2\)\(a\)1.-3., F.S.](#)

⁴⁰ A third degree felony is punishable by up to five years imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine. [Ss. 775.082, 775.083, or 775.084, F.S.](#)

⁴¹ A second degree misdemeanor is punishable by up to 60 days in jail and a \$500 fine. [Ss. 775.082 or 775.083, F.S.](#)

⁴² A second degree felony is punishable by up to 15 years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine. [Ss. 775.082, 775.083, or 775.084, F.S.](#)

⁴³ [S. 790.115\(2\)\(d\), F.S.](#)

⁴⁴ [S. 921.0022\(3\)\(f\), F.S.](#)

⁴⁵ All felony offenses, with the exception of capital felonies, committed on or after October 1, 1998, are subject to the Criminal Punishment Code. [S. 921.002, F.S.](#)

⁴⁶ [S. 921.0022, F.S.](#)

⁴⁷ [S. 921.0022\(2\), F.S.](#)

⁴⁸ Felony offenses that are not listed in the OSRC default to statutorily assigned levels, as follows: an unlisted third-degree felony defaults to a level 1; an unlisted second-degree felony defaults to a level 4; an unlisted first-degree felony defaults to a level 7; an unlisted first-degree felony punishable by life defaults to a level 9; and an unlisted life felony defaults to a level 10. [S. 921.0023, F.S.](#)

⁴⁹ [Ss. 921.0022, F.S. and 921.0024, F.S.](#)

⁵⁰ A person may also accumulate points for factors such as victim injury points, community sanction violation points, and certain sentencing multipliers. [S. 921.0024\(1\), F.S.](#)

⁵¹ If a person scores more than 44 points, the lowest permissible sentence is a specified term of months in state prison, determined by a formula. If a person scores 44 points or fewer, the court may impose a nonprison sanction, such as a county jail sentence, probation, or community control. [S. 921.0024\(2\), F.S.](#)

⁵² [S. 943.082\(1\), F.S.](#)

⁵³ [S. 943.082\(3\), F.S.](#)

will be provided to law enforcement and the individual may be subject to criminal penalties.⁵⁴ If the person chooses to identify him or herself, then the identity will be shared with the law enforcement agency and school officials. However, those entities must keep the identify information confidential.⁵⁵

The FDLE must collaborate with the Division of Victims Services within the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of Safe Schools to develop and provide a comprehensive training and awareness program on the use of FortifyFL.⁵⁶ Each district school board must promote the use of FortifyFL by providing instruction on its use to students within the first 5 days of school, each year, and advertising it on the school district website, in publications, and on school campuses. Also, FortifyFL must be installed on all mobile devices issued to students and bookmarked in web browsers on all computer devices issued to students.⁵⁷

Florida School Safety Assessment Tool

The [Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool](#) (FSSAT) is a security risk assessment tool that helps school officials identify threats, vulnerabilities, and appropriate safety controls for the schools that they supervise.⁵⁸ The FSSAT is the primary physical site security assessment tool used by school officials at each school district and public school site to conduct security assessments.⁵⁹ The Office of Safe Schools (OSS) must make the FSSAT available to school districts by May 1 of each year and provide annual FSSAT training to school safety specialists and other personnel.⁶⁰

The FSSAT must address the following:

- School emergency and crisis preparedness planning.
- Security, crime, and violence prevention policies and procedures.
- Physical security measures.
- Professional development training needs.
- An examination of support service roles in school safety, security, and emergency planning.
- School security and school police staffing, operational practices, and related services.
- School and community collaboration on school safety.
- Policies and procedures for school officials to prepare for and respond to natural and manmade disasters, including family reunification plans.
- A return on investment analysis of the recommended physical security controls.⁶¹

By December 1 of each year, the DOE must report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the status of implementation across school districts and schools. The report must include a summary of the positive school safety measures in place at the time of the assessment and any recommendations for policy changes or funding needed to facilitate continued school safety planning, improvement, and response at the state, district, or school levels.⁶² Data and information related to security risk assessments and the security information contained in the annual report are confidential and exempt from public records requirements.⁶³

⁵⁴ [S. 943.082\(2\), F.S.](#)

⁵⁵ *Id.*

⁵⁶ [S. 943.082\(5\), F.S.](#)

⁵⁷ [S. 943.082\(4\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

⁵⁸ [S. 1006.1493\(1\), F.S.](#)

⁵⁹ *Id.*

⁶⁰ [S. 1006.1493\(3\), F.S.](#)

⁶¹ [S. 1006.1493\(2\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

⁶² [S. 1006.1493\(4\), F.S.](#)

⁶³ [S. 1006.1493\(5\), F.S.](#)

Threat Management Processes in Florida K-12 Schools

The OSS, as tasked by the Legislature, developed a statewide behavioral threat management operational process, a Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument, and a threat management portal.⁶⁴ The statewide behavioral threat management operational process must include, at least, the following:

- The establishment and duties of threat management teams.
- Definition of behavior risks and threats.
- Use of the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.
- Use and access specifications of the threat management portal.
- Procedures for the implementation of interventions, supports, and community services.
- Guidelines for appropriate law enforcement intervention.
- Procedures for risk management.
- Procedures for disciplinary actions.
- Mechanisms for continued monitoring of potential and real threats.
- Procedures for referrals to mental health services identified by the school district or charter school governing board.
- Procedures and requirements necessary for the creation of a threat assessment report and corresponding documentation required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.⁶⁵

The [Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument](#) provides:

- An assessment of the threat, which includes an assessment of the student, family, and school and social dynamics.
- An evaluation to determine whether a threat exists and if so, the type of threat.
- The response to a threat, which includes the school response, the role of law enforcement agencies in the response, and the response by mental health providers.
- Ongoing monitoring to assess implementation of threat management and safety strategies.
- Ongoing monitoring to evaluate interventions and support provided to the students.
- A standardized threat assessment report, which must include, but need not be limited to, all documentation associated with the evaluation, intervention, management, and any ongoing monitoring of the threat.⁶⁶

The threat management portal maintained by the OSS includes the following:

- Workflow processes that align with the statewide behavioral threat management operational process.
- Direct data entry and file uploading as required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.
- The ability to create a threat assessment report as required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.
- The ability of authorized personnel to add to or update a student's record.
- The ability to create and remove connections between student records and authorized personnel.
- The ability to grant access to and transfer student records securely to other schools or charter schools in the district.
- The ability to grant access to and transfer student records securely to schools and charter schools not in the originating district.
- The ability to retain, maintain, and transfer student records as prescribed by SBE rule.
- The ability to restrict access to, entry of, modification of, and transfer of documentation to a school, district, charter school or charter school governing board, and authorized personnel as specified by the statewide behavioral threat management operational process.

⁶⁴ [S. 1001.212\(11\), F.S.](#) See Florida Department of Education, *Behavioral Threat Management*, <https://www.fldoe.org/safe-schools/threat-assessment.stml> (last visited Mar. 23, 2026).

⁶⁵ [S. 1001.212\(11\)\(a\)1., F.S.](#) See Florida Department of Education, *Behavioral Threat Management*, <https://www.fldoe.org/safe-schools/threat-assessment.stml> (last visited Mar. 23, 2026).

⁶⁶ [S. 1001.212\(11\)\(b\)1., F.S.](#)

- The ability to designate district or charter school governing board system administrators who may grant access to authorized district personnel and school and charter school system administrators.
- The ability to designate school or charter school system administrators who may grant access to authorized school or charter school personnel.
- The ability to notify the OSS's system administrators and district or charter school governing board system administrators of attempts to access any records by unauthorized personnel.⁶⁷

All documentation included in the threat management portal constitute educational records and may only be maintained or transferred in accordance with SBE rule.⁶⁸ The portal must be designed so the OSS and the OSS system administrator do not have access to the educational records, except in accordance with SBE rule. Access to educational records by school districts and charter schools must be provided only in accordance with SBE rule.⁶⁹ The parent of a student may access his or her student's records maintained in the portal but are prohibited from accessing the portal directly.⁷⁰ In order to ensure compliance with required access protocols, the OSS must develop and implement a quarterly access review audit process.⁷¹ All school districts and charter schools are required to comply with the audit process adopted by the OSS.⁷² The law provides for a noncriminal penalty of a fine of up to \$2,000 for anyone who uses or releases any information from the portal except as explicitly authorized by SBE rule or other applicable law.⁷³

To ensure school districts and charter schools have the necessary information to provide appropriate support to students who transfer schools, any threat assessment report, and all corresponding documentation, that contains the evaluation, intervention and management of the threat assessment evaluations and intervention services must be transferred to the new school district or charter school.⁷⁴

Each district school board is required to designate a threat management coordinator⁷⁵ and adopt policies for establishing a threat management team (TMT) at each school, which is responsible for coordinating resources and threat assessments, and intervening with individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of students or school staff, consistent with model policies developed by OSS. The policies must include procedures for referrals to community mental health services or health care providers for evaluation or treatment, when appropriate, and for behavioral threat assessments in compliance with the standardized, statewide behavioral threat assessment instrument.⁷⁶ A TMT must include persons with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration, and law enforcement and all members of the TMT must participate in the threat assessment process and final decisionmaking.⁷⁷ Additionally, if no member of the TMT has personal familiarity with the subject of the threat assessment, an instructional or administrative staff member personally familiar with the subject of the threat assessment must be involved in the threat management process.⁷⁸ The TMT is required to:

- Identify school community members to whom threatening behavior should be reported;
- Provide guidance to students, faculty, and staff for recognizing threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self; and

⁶⁷ [S. 1001.212\(11\)\(c\)1., F.S.](#)

⁶⁸ [S. 1001.212\(11\)\(c\)3., F.S.](#)

⁶⁹ [S. 1001.212\(11\)\(c\)1.h.-i., F.S.](#)

⁷⁰ [S. 1001.212\(11\)\(c\)6., F.S.](#)

⁷¹ [S. 1001.212\(11\)\(c\)7., F.S.](#)

⁷² [S. 1001.212\(11\)\(c\)8., F.S.](#)

⁷³ [S. 1001.212\(11\)\(c\)10., F.S.](#)

⁷⁴ [S. 1003.25\(2\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

⁷⁵ The threat management coordinator serves as the primary point of contact regarding the district's coordination, communication and implementation of the threat management program and bears the responsibility of submitting data to the OSS. [S. 1006.07\(7\)\(j\), F.S.](#)

⁷⁶ [S. 1006.07\(7\), F.S.](#) See also [s. 1001.212\(11\), F.S.](#)

⁷⁷ [S. 1006.07\(7\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

⁷⁸ *Id.*

- Must use the model behavioral threat assessment instrument developed by the OSS.⁷⁹

Threat assessment teams must report quantitative data on their activities in accordance with guidance from the OSS, and are required to use the threat assessment database when the statewide threat assessment database becomes available.⁸⁰

RECENT LEGISLATION:

YEAR	BILL #/SUBJECT	HOUSE/SENATE SPONSOR(S)	OTHER INFORMATION
2025	CS/CS/CS/HB 1403 - Safety of Students	Yeager, Hunschofsky/ <i>Burgess</i>	The bill became law on July 1, 2025.
2024	CS/CS/HB 1473 - School Safety	Trabulsky, Hunschofsky/ <i>Calatayud</i>	The bill became law on July 1, 2024.
2023	CS/HB 543 - Public Safety	Brannan, Payne/ <i>Collins</i>	The bill became law on July 1, 2023.
2022	CS/CS/CS/HB 1421 - School Safety	Hawkins, Hunschofsky/ <i>Gruters</i>	The bill became law on July 1, 2022.

⁷⁹ [S. 1006.07\(7\)\(c\), F.S.](#); r. 6A-1.0019, F.A.C.; See Florida Department of Education, *Behavioral Threat Management*, <https://www.fldoe.org/safe-schools/threat-assessment.shtml> (last visited Mar. 23, 2026).

⁸⁰ [S. 1006.07\(7\)\(j\), F.S.](#)