



# School Safety Rules and Compliance

Compliance Monitoring for School Districts and Charter Schools

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## Office of Safe Schools

- [S. 1001.212, F.S.](#) –

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

## Rule 6A-1.0018, F.A.C.

- On June 10, 2021, the State Board of Education approved Rule 6A-1.0018, F.A.C. for School Safety Requirements & Monitoring
- Effective as of July 14, 2021
- Outlines expectations and requirements for all with regard to school safety, reporting & training



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# Structure of the Rule

- Overview
  - Section 1 – Purpose
  - Section 2 – Definitions
  - Section 3 – District Contact Information
- Monitoring
  - Section 4 – Monitoring by the District  
School Safety Specialist (SSS)
  - Section 5 – Monitoring by the  
Office of Safe Schools (OSS)

- Specific Requirements
  - Section 6 – Safety Requirements (Sections 7-20)
- Exceptions & Clarifications
  - Section 19 – Charter Schools
  - Section 20 – Virtual Schools
- Forms
  - Section 21 – Incorporated Forms



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# Monitoring by District School Safety Specialists

## Monitoring by District School Safety Specialists

- Responsible for supervision and oversight for all school safety and security personnel, policies and procedures in the school district, including charter schools
- Required to review school district and charter school policies and procedures at least annually to determine compliance with state law and rules



## (cont'd)

- Provide notice of suspected deficiencies and opportunity to cure when reason to believe a school is not in compliance with a requirement in state law or rules relating to safety
  - Deficiencies relating to a safe-school officer must be resolve by the next school day
  - Other areas of noncompliance may be resolved through cooperation with the SSS
  - When the matter is not resolved by the following day, the SSS must notify OSS by emailing [SafeSchools@fldoe.org](mailto:SafeSchools@fldoe.org)



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# Monitoring by The Office of Safe Schools - Process

# Monitoring by The Office of Safe Schools (OSS)

- OSS will monitor compliance through:
  - Announced and unannounced on-site visits to schools and district facilities or offices
  - Review of school and district websites and publications
  - Interviews with staff
  - Review of media reports
  - Other information submitted to or received by the OSS

## (cont'd)

- District and school staff must keep accurate and up-to-date records demonstrating requirements met and must provide records upon request
- The OSS will provide notice of a suspected deficiency to the SSS at the email provided. Districts must establish a policy to communicate the suspected deficiency to the district's superintendent

## (cont'd)

- Time to respond and opportunity to cure:
  - Failure to have a safe-school officer at each school – must respond in writing and verify officer on site by the next school day
  - In all other cases – the SSS must respond in writing within five school days and
    - verify the district or school has corrected the issue, or
    - submit a plan describing how the district will bring the school(s) into compliance; plan must include estimated date of completion and an explanation of alternate security measures to maintain a safe learning environment

## (cont'd)

- Time to respond and opportunity to cure:
  - Upon verification of compliance or correction, the Office will provide written notice of resolution by email to the district SSS
  - Where a suspected deficiency has not been timely resolved, the OSS will advise the Commissioner of Education who can facilitate compliance to the maximum extent provided under law



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# Safety Requirements

## Safety Requirements

- The OSS will monitor schools and school districts for compliance with the safety requirements set forth in subsections (7) through (20)





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# Safe-school Officer

## Safe-school Officer

- School districts are required to establish or assign at least one safe-school officer at each school facility within the district
  - A school facility means:
    - Public K-12 school, including charter school
  - Exceptions include:
    - Schools with separate MSID numbers located at the same physical location/co-located with each other
    - Schools that are located at separate physical locations/not co-located, but share one MSID number

## (cont'd)

- Exceptions also include:
  - Schools without a physical location for instruction (virtual schools, virtual instruction programs, virtual course offerings, franchises of FLVS and virtual charter schools)
  - Settings where instruction is provided in a county jail or state prison, a DJJ facility or program, a hospital, or while a student is homebound
  - Schools that provide only pre-K or adult education
  - District-run technical centers
  - Private schools that receive state scholarship funds
  - Programs that contract with districts, such as PACE Center for Girls

## Survey of Safe-school Officers

- At least annually, the OSS will send the SSS a list of school facilities in their district
- SSS must review the list for accuracy, adding new schools and deleting those that have closed
- SSS must identify the current count of safe-school officers by type (SROs, SSOs, school guardians and school security guards) assigned to each school

## Safe-school Officer Presence

- Safe-school officers must be present, at a minimum, during the school day when the school facility is open for instruction
- Districts must establish a policy concerning when a safe-school officer will be assigned to a school facility for extracurricular activities, summer school, and for school-sponsored events



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# Alyssa's Alert

## Alyssa's Alert

- Beginning with 2021-22 school year, school districts are required to implement a mobile panic alert system in all schools, including charter schools

## Alyssa's Alert

- The mobile panic alert system must:
  - Be capable of connecting to diverse emergency services technologies to ensure real-time coordination between multiple first responder agencies (at a minimum, law enforcement, firefighting and emergency medical services); and
  - Be integrated with local public safety infrastructure to transmit 911 calls and mobile activations





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**ForitfyFL**

## FortifyFL

- **School districts are required to promote FortifyFL and are required to:**
  - Maintain current school listings (school name, address and MSID number) within FortifyFL
    - Update information in FortifyFL within five school days, when a school is opened, closed or when any other change occurs that impacts the accuracy of the information required
  - Verify and maintain current contact information (telephone number and email address) for each school's administrator(s) and SSS

## FortifyFL (cont'd)

- School districts are required to promote FortifyFL and are required to:
  - Advertise FortifyFL on the district website, on school campuses, in newsletters and in school publications
  - Install the FortifyFL app on all mobile devices issued by the school or school district
  - Bookmark the FortifyFL website on all computer devices issued by the school or school district



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# Threat Assessment Teams

## Threat Assessment Teams - Composition

- Each school is required to have a threat assessment team that includes persons with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration and law enforcement

## Team Member Requirements – (Counseling)

- Counseling team member must be a school-based mental health services provider able to access student mental health records

## Team Member Requirements – (LEO)

- Law enforcement team member must be sworn law enforcement, including SRO, SSO or other career law enforcement officer with arrest authority and must have access to local Records Management System information, Criminal Justice Information System, and Florida Crime Information Center and National Crime Information Center databases
- Officers serving on school-based threat assessment teams must also have clearance to review Criminal Justice Information and Criminal History Record Information

## Team Member Requirements – (Guardian)

- A school guardian may not serve as the law enforcement member of a threat assessment team



## Threat Assessment Teams – Instrument/Training

- Each school-based threat assessment team must use the CSTAG model to assess persons who may pose a threat and coordinate intervention and services for such person
- All members of the threat assessment teams must complete training on the use of the CSTAG model within ninety days of appointment

## Threat Assessment Teams – Meetings

- Each school-based threat assessment team must meet as often as needed, but no less than monthly
- Districts must adopt policies requiring teams to maintain documentation of meetings, including:
  - Dates and times
  - Team members in attendance
  - Cases discussed, and
  - Actions taken

## Threat Assessment Teams – Reporting

- Each district SSS must ensure all teams report to the OSS on the team’s activities during the previous school year
- Information is due by October 1, using the FSSAT to report the following:
  - For 2021-22 school year, the total number of transient and substantive threat assessments conducted
  - Beginning 2022-23 school year, transient and substantive threat assessments conducted, by gender, race and grade level of students assessed



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# School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR)

## SESIR

- Each district superintendent is required to designate persons responsible for SESIR reporting and ensure they receive live or online training



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# Zero Tolerance Policies & Agreements with Law Enforcement

## Zero Tolerance & Agreements with LE

- Each district is required to:
  - Have zero-tolerance policies that define acts that require consultation with and reporting or referral to law enforcement
  - Have an agreement with the county sheriff's office and local police department for reporting acts that pose a threat to school safety
  - Adopt a cooperative agreement with the Department of Juvenile Justice regarding enforcement of no contact orders



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# School Security Risk Assessments & the FSSAT



# School Security Risk Assessments & the FSSAT

- Each year, the SSS must:
  - Ensure a school security risk assessment is completed on or before October 1 at each public school in their district using the FSSAT
  - Report by October 15 in the FSSAT that required school security risk assessments are completed

# School Security Risk Assessments & the FSSAT

- SSS must also:
  - Provide recommendations to the district school board and district superintendent, identifying strategies and activities the board should implement to improve safety and security
  - Submit a district best practices assessment in the FSSAT within thirty days after the district school board meets to receive such findings, but no later than November 1, to include school security risk assessment findings and recommendations



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# First Responders' School Safety Recommendations

# First Responders' School Safety Recommendations

- The SSS must coordinate with public safety agencies designated as first responders to a school's campus to tour each school campus once every three years and provide recommendations related to school safety

## First Responders' School Safety Recommendations (cont'd)

- Completion of such tours and any recommendations must be documented in each school's security risk assessment within FSSAT
- The recommendations made by public safety agencies shall be included in the SSS's report to the superintendent and school board



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# Emergency Drills

## Emergency Drills

- Active shooter and hostage situation drills must be conducted at least as often as fire drills are required by the Florida Fire Prevention Code, as adopted by the State Fire Marshal
- Districts must document completion of emergency drills and provide such documentation to the OSS upon request

## Emergency Drills & SB 590

- District policies may provide accommodations for drills conducted by exceptional student education centers





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# Active Assailant Response Plans

## Active Assailant Response Plans

- Each district school board must adopt an active assailant response plan
- The plan must include, at a minimum, strategies and expectations for responding to an active assailant situation by evading or evacuating, taking cover or hiding, and responding to or fighting back
- All school personnel must be trained annually on the procedures in the district's plan
- Completion of annual training must be documented in FSSAT by October 1 each year



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## Reporting Safe-School Officer Discipline, Dismissal or Discharge of Firearm

## Reporting Safe-school Officer – Discharge of Firearm

- The superintendent or designee must notify the OSS when a safe-school officer discharges a firearm, other than for training purposes
- Notification must be made no later than seventy-two hours of the incident by submitting form SSON-2021 to [SafeSchools@fldoe.org](mailto:SafeSchools@fldoe.org)

## Reporting Safe-school Officer – Dismissal or Discipline

- The superintendent or designee must notify the OSS when a safe-school officer has been disciplined for misconduct or has been dismissed from their duties by their employer, including where the officer is reassigned or moved to another location, whether by a school district, charter school, law enforcement agency or private security company
- Notification must be made no later than seventy-two hours of the action by submitting form SSON-2021 to [SafeSchools@fldoe.org](mailto:SafeSchools@fldoe.org)

## Reporting Safe-school Officer – Dismissal or Discipline

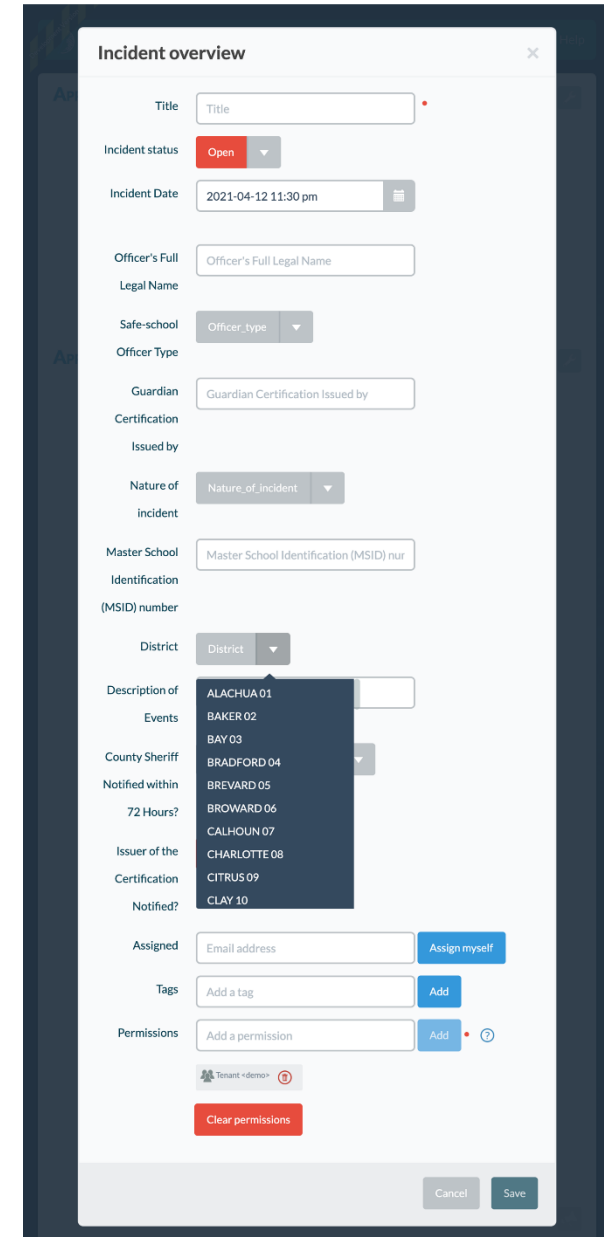
- The superintendent or designee must notify the OSS when there is an allegation of misconduct resulting in an officer being placed on administrative leave or reassigned pending investigation
- Within fifteen days of completion of the investigation, updated information regarding the result of the investigation must be provided

## Reporting Safe-school Officer – Dismissal or Discipline

- School districts must implement procedures to ensure that charter schools, law enforcement agencies and private security firms employing or contracting with safe-school officers **timely report discipline and dismissal of officers and any discharge of an officer's weapon outside of training activities** so that districts can **report to the OSS within the required seventy-two hours**

# SSON-2021 Form

- Incident Status
- Incident Date
- Officer's Full Legal Name
- Safe-school Officer Type
- Guardian Certification Issued by
- Nature of Incident
- Master School Identification (MSID) Number
- District
- Description of Events
- County Sheriff Notified within 72 Hours? (Yes/No)
- Issuer of the Certification Notified? (Yes/No)



The screenshot shows a web-based form titled "Incident overview" with the following fields and options:

- Title:** Text input field.
- Incident status:** Dropdown menu with "Open" selected.
- Incident Date:** Date and time picker showing "2021-04-12 11:30 pm".
- Officer's Full Legal Name:** Text input field.
- Officer Type:** Dropdown menu with "Officer\_type" selected.
- Guardian Certification Issued by:** Text input field.
- Nature of incident:** Dropdown menu with "Nature\_of\_incident" selected.
- Master School Identification (MSID) number:** Text input field.
- District:** Dropdown menu with "District" selected.
- Description of Events:** Text input field.
- County Sheriff Notified within 72 Hours?:** Dropdown menu with "ALACHUA 01" selected. A dropdown list is open showing options: ALACHUA 01, BAKER 02, BAY 03, BRADFORD 04, BREVARD 05, BROWARD 06, CALHOUN 07, CHARLOTTE 08, CITRUS 09, CLAY 10.
- Issuer of the Certification Notified?:** Text input field.
- Assigned:** Text input field for "Email address" with an "Assign myself" button.
- Tags:** Text input field for "Add a tag" with an "Add" button.
- Permissions:** Text input field for "Add a permission" with an "Add" button.
- Clear permissions:** Red button.
- Cancel / Save:** Buttons at the bottom right.





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# Charter School Safety Requirements

## Charter School Safety Requirements - Monitoring

- Monitoring of safety requirements for a charter school is the responsibility of the district's SSS
- The OSS will provide any notices of suspected deficiencies occurring at or by a charter school to the SSS for investigation and response

# Charter School Safety Requirements - Monitoring

- To ensure a SSS is able to monitor school safety and security at a charter school, each charter school must:
  - Provide up-to-date contact information in the manner and mode required by the SSS
  - Timely respond to requests for information made by the SSS related to safety requirements set forth in this rule
  - Coordinate with the SSS on curing suspected deficiencies identified by the specialist and the OSS

# Charter School Safety Requirements - Exceptions

- Charter schools and their governing boards are responsible for meeting these safety requirements
- All requirements apply to charter schools except as noted below:
  - **Safe-school officer**  
SSS are responsible for:
    - ensuring that all charter school facilities in their district have at least one safe-school officer assigned and present on campus while school is in session
    - keep accurate records of the numbers and type of safe-school officers assigned to each charter school

# Charter School Safety Requirements - Exceptions

- Safe-school officer (cont'd)

Districts and charter school governing boards must work together to determine the type of safe-school officer assigned to each charter school

# Charter School Safety Requirements - Exceptions

- **Alyssa's Alert**

A charter school may implement its own mobile panic alert system that meets all requirements of s. 1006.07(4), F.S., or is one of the systems selected by the Department of Education

# Charter School Safety Requirements - Exceptions

- **FortifyFL**

The requirements for districts for FortifyFL apply to the charter school's governing board, unless a charter school does not have input access to FortifyFL

Where a charter school lacks input access, a district's SSS must ensure that the information for schools and school contacts are timely added to FortifyFL

# Charter School Safety Requirements - Exceptions

- FortifyFL (cont'd)

Charter schools must update FortifyFL with accurate contact information (phone and email address) for school administrators who will receive tips and notifications from the app

Schools without input access must provide such information to the SSS



# Charter School Safety Requirements - Exceptions

- **Threat Assessment Teams**

A charter school governing board may adopt its own threat assessment team policies or adopt the district's threat assessment team policies

The charter school governing board must cooperate with the review of its policies by the SSS

# Charter School Safety Requirements - Exceptions

- Threat Assessment Teams (cont'd)

In all districts, including where charter schools do not have input access to FSSAT, the SSS must ensure data from charter schools necessary for reporting is timely reporting in the FSSAT and charter school governing boards must cooperate with the SSS to ensure accurate and timely data is reported

# Charter School Safety Requirements - Exceptions

- **SESIR**

The requirements set forth for district superintendents apply to the charter's governing board

# Charter School Safety Requirements - Exceptions

- Zero-Tolerance Policies and Agreements with Law Enforcement

Charter school governing boards are not required to have zero-tolerance policies or agreements with law enforcement

In order to comply with SESIR reporting procedures, charter school governing boards are required to establish policies stating which incidents require consultation with law enforcement, and which incidents require a report or referral to law enforcement

Charter schools may also adopt the district's policy

# Charter School Safety Requirements - Exceptions

- **School Security Risk Assessment and the FSSAT**

A charter school must cooperate with the SSS's requests for information and access to the school security risk assessment

# Charter School Safety Requirements - Exceptions

- **Emergency Drills**

Drills conducted at charter schools must be coordinated with the SSS and documentation required must be provided by the charter school to the SSS, by the method and time established by the SSS

# Charter School Safety Requirements - Exceptions

- **Active Assailant Response Plans**

The requirements set forth for districts to adopt an Active Assailant Response Plan apply to the charter school's governing board

In all districts, including where charter schools do not have input access to FSSAT, the SSS must ensure data from charter schools necessary for reporting is timely reported in the FSSAT

Charter school governing boards must cooperate with the SSS to ensure accurate and timely data is reported

# Charter School Safety Requirements - Exceptions

- Reporting Safe-school Officer Discipline, Dismissal or Discharge of Firearm

Charter school governing boards must comply with district reporting procedures to meet the reporting requirements, including the seventy-two hour reporting requirement



# Charter School Safety Requirements - Exceptions

- Survey of Safe-school Officers

Charter school governing boards must cooperate with the SSS to ensure accurate and timely data is reported



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# Incorporated Documents

## Incorporated Documents

- Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines  
Form: Form CSTAG-2021
- Safe-school Officer Notification Form: Form SSON-2021
- Model Behavioral Threat Assessment Policies and Best Practices for K-12 Schools: Form BTAP-2021



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