Office of Safe Schools

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Operations and Management Consultant II
Office of Safe Schools

Mitigate Florida Meeting
3/10/2020
Office of Safe Schools (OSS) – (s. 1001.212, F.S.)

OSS serves as a central repository for best practices, training standards and compliance oversight in all matters regarding school safety and security

Our mission:

Support districts in providing a safe learning environment for students and educators

Primary goals of the office:

• Prevention
• Intervention
• Emergency Preparedness Planning
Office of Safe Schools Staffing

- **Damien Kelly**
  Program Oversight 850-245-5171

- **Latasha Carr**
  Travel/Scheduling
  General Inquiries 850-245-5174

- **Brooks Rumenik**
  Guardian Grants, Bullying Prevention & Threat Assessment 850-245-0749

- **Debby Sheets**
  Correspondence 850-245-7859

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  Program Specialist 850-245-5145

- **Sylvia Ifft**
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  Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT) & Harm Mitigation Workgroup

- **Spencer Hawkins**
  IT Support 850-245-9088

- **Julie Collins**
  FortifyFL, SSS Liaison,
  SESIR & Discipline Data 850-245-0676

- **Debbie Cutchin**
  Program Specialist 850-245-9437

- **Neila Wohlgemuth**
  Program Specialist 850-245-5177

- **Jenilyn Wilson**
  Region 3 850-245-0685

- **Morgan Nykiel**
  Region 5 850-245-9120

- **Andrew Mazyck**
  Region 6 850-245-5030

- **Ben Cooper**
  Region 1 850-245-9011

- **Tracy Sampson**
  Region 2 850-245-9507

- **Bert Valdes**
  Region 4 850-245-5179

Field Staff

www.FLDOE.org
Office of Safe Schools

Regions

REGION 1

REGION 2

REGION 3

REGION 4

REGION 5

REGION 6
Florida Schools by the Numbers

- Number of students (K-12) = 2,858,949
- Number of schools/campuses = 3,722 public schools
Meeting Legislative Requirements

Active Assailant Response Plans
Compliance Monitoring
Data Repository
Emergency Drills
FortifyFL
FSSAT
Guardian Program
Mental Health Assistance*

Physical Security
Safe-School Officers
Safe Schools Portal (FSSP)*
School Safety Specialists
SESIR
Social Media Monitoring*
Threat Assessment Teams
Youth Mental Health*

*Administered within DOE, outside of OSS
Other Requirements, Efforts, & Initiatives)

• Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission recommendations
• Statewide Grand Jury recommendations
• Governor DeSantis’ February 12, 2020 letter
• Governor’s Executive Order 19-45 (completed)
• Pending 2020 school safety legislation
Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission – (s. 943.687, F.S.)

Led by Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, group of 16 members who convene regularly to:

• Investigate system failures and
• Develop recommendations for system improvements
Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School
Public Safety Commission

Recommendations include:

• Code Red Policies
• Locked doors
• Limited access to campus
• Designated hard corners/safe areas
• Train staff on protocols and procedures
• 1:1 ratio of SRO/Guardian on each campus
• Advertise and promote use of FortifyFL
• Dedicated threat assessment teams at each school with oversight by district for more serious threats
• Standardized, statewide threat assessment instrument
School Safety Specialists – (s. 1006.07, F.S.)

Senate Bill 7026 provided a requirement for each district school superintendent to designate a school administrator as a school safety specialist for the district.

The school safety specialist is responsible for the supervision and oversight for all school safety and security personnel, policies and procedures in the school district.
Training for School Safety Specialists

• Training dates scheduled to maximize participation

• Six FEMA Independent Study courses identified as prerequisites

• Annual refresher training to be offered, as well as online training for those hired mid-year
Safe-School Officers Assigned – (s. 1006.12, F.S.)

S. 1006.12, F.S. - …each district school board and school district superintendent shall partner with law enforcement agencies or security agencies to establish or assign one or more safe-school officers at each school facility within the district...
Safe-School Officer Options

- School Resource Officer
- School Safety Officer
- Coach Aaron Feis Guardian
- School Security Guard (contracted security, trained through Sheriff’s Guardian Program)

MSDPSC recommendation – 1:1 ratio at all schools, bell-to-bell
Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program – (s. 30.15, F.S.)

• Currently, 38 sheriffs throughout Florida have agreed to train volunteers as Guardians (and 42 districts are utilizing Guardians)

• With SB 7030, if a sheriff is not providing the training, a charter school may contract with another sheriff who is training, however they must notify their superintendent and local sheriff
Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT) – (s. 1006.1493, F.S.)

- This risk assessment tool is used by school officials at each school district and public school site

- Helps identify threats, vulnerabilities and appropriate safety controls
Physical Security of School Buildings

• For 2018-19, $98,962,286 available for grants to schools to fund fixed capital outlay costs associated with improving physical security of school buildings as identified by security risk assessment (FSSAT)

• For 2019-20, $50,000,000 is available

• Average award of $13,433 per school
School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) – (s. 1006.07, F.S.)

• Collect data on 26 incidents of crime, violence and disruptive behaviors
• On school grounds, on school transportation and at off-campus, school sponsored events
• 365 days/24 hours
• Students, Non-Students or Unknown Offenders
### Level I - Most Serious
- Arson
- Battery-Aggravated/Felony
- Homicide
- Kidnapping
- Sexual Battery

### Level II
- Breaking & Entering/ Burglary
- Drug Sale/Distribution
- Physical Attack
- Robbery
- Weapons Possession
- Sexual Assault

### Level III
- Disruption On Campus
- Drug Use/Possession
- Hazing
- Fighting ★
- Larceny/Theft
- Sexual Harassment ★
- Sexual Offenses (Other)
- Threat/Intimidation
- Trespassing
- Vandalism
- Other Major Offenses

### Level IV – Least Serious
- Alcohol
- Tobacco/Nicotine ★
- Bullying ★
- Harassment ★
Establishing Threat Assessment Teams – (s. 1006.07, F.S.)

- Each school board shall adopt a policy and establish threat assessment teams at each school to:
  - Include persons with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration and law enforcement.
  - Make determinations of a student posing a threat of violence to himself/herself or others, exhibiting significantly disruptive behavior or need for assistance.
  - Most districts reported teams are established and meet monthly or as needed.
Active Assailant Response Plans – (s. 1006.07, F.S.)

• Each district school board and charter school governing board must adopt an active assailant response plan.

• Each district school superintendent and charter school principal shall certify that all school personnel have received annual training on the procedures contained in the active assailant response plan. (due by October 1, annually)
Active Shooter Training and Drills – (s. 1006.07, F.S.)

• Active shooter training ranges from videos for students to law enforcement-led courses for staff

• The law requires that drills for active shooter be conducted at least as often as other emergency drills
Implementation of Active Shooter Drills

• Some districts or schools plan for smaller drills on a monthly basis and more in-depth and intensive exercises each semester

• Work with local agencies and first responders in planning for a response in the event of an active shooter

• Developmentally appropriate (age, grade level, disability, etc.)
FortifyFL – (s. 943.082, F.S.)

• 6,964 Public and Private Schools
• 247 Law Enforcement Agencies
• Over 7,200 Tips Reported to Date
• Administrative users can access FAQs, video and “Quick Start” training via the FortifyFL portal
FortifyFL

- The district school board shall promote the use:
  - Advertising on school district website
  - In newsletters
  - On school campuses
  - In school publications
  - Installed on all mobile devices issued to students
  - Bookmarking the website on all computer devices issued to students
- Printable posters have been provided to school districts
- FortifyFL is also available in Spanish.
Florida Schools Safety Portal – (s. 1001.212, F.S.)

• The purpose of the data portal is to improve the threat assessment teams’ access to timely information from a variety of data sources (education, mental health, law enforcement, and social media) to address and/or quickly avert a reported or identified threat.

• Recommendations have been made to allow for the inclusion of individual threat assessment data to be shared statewide as well.
Social Media Monitoring Tool

• The purpose of this Social Media Monitoring tool is to help school districts monitor threats of violence against students, employees, and schools.

• The system is designed to scan social media to identify signs of bullying, self-harm, or threats of violence against students, employees, and schools.
School Hardening and Harm Mitigation
Work Group
Work Group Confidentiality Statement

Materials or discussion regarding data and information related to school security risk assessments, or school security/firesafety system plans, is confidential and exempt from release as a public record pursuant to sections 119.071(3), 281.301, and 1006.1493(5), Florida Statutes.

Copying or sharing this information outside the context in which it was provided is strictly prohibited.
State of Florida Office of the Governor
Executive Order Number 19-45

- Department of Education shall develop best practices for school hardening and harm mitigation
  - Incorporate a **tiered approach** to school hardening, ranging from **basic harm mitigation strategies to more advances security measures**, as identified in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Safety Commissions Initial Report
  - Due to the Governor and the Legislature July 1, 2019
  - Report available in the ShareFile
Executive Order 19-45

**Prevention**
- School hardening
- Intervention

**Harm Mitigation**
- Identify
- Notify
- Respond
- Recover
Best Practices for School Hardening and Harm Mitigation

- Purpose of the document is to provide school officials with a tiered approach to school hardening ranging from basic harm mitigation strategies to more advanced security measures
- This tiered approach is intended to assist schools and school districts with identifying measures they can implement immediately and for developing long-term plans
- Best practices are those practices which are research-based, proven to work and produce results
- Not all options outlined in the document may be applicable to every school district or every school
## Tiered Methodology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementation</th>
<th>Level 1 – Basic</th>
<th>Level 2 - Moderate</th>
<th>Level 3- Advanced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>Immediate</td>
<td>A few weeks to one year</td>
<td>One to three years, multi-phased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Process</td>
<td>Developing</td>
<td>Documented and trained on procedures</td>
<td>Exercised and reviewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
<td>Identified/assigned</td>
<td>Written performance expectations</td>
<td>Accountability &amp; measured performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>Low tech, requirements identified</td>
<td>Deployed</td>
<td>Measured &amp; evaluated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Minimal structural modifications</td>
<td>Modest renovations or additions to existing measures</td>
<td>Major construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Work Group Guidelines

Meet as necessary to review school hardening and harm mitigation policies, including, but not limited to:

- Target hardening practices implemented in other states
- School safety guidelines developed by organizations such as the Partner Alliance for Safer Schools
- The tiered approach to target campus hardening strategies identified in the initial report submitted by the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission
- The Florida Building Code

s. 1001.212(11), F.S.
Report Requirements

Final report to the Executive Director of the Office of Safe Schools must include, at a minimum:

• A prioritized list for the implementation of school campus hardening and harm mitigation strategies
• The estimated costs of and timeframes for implementation of the strategies by school districts and charter schools
• Estimated costs must include regional and statewide projections of the implementation costs
• Due August 1, 2020
Report Requirements

Director of the Office of Safe Schools submits to the Commissioner of Education:

• The workgroup’s report
• Recommendations regarding procedures for the office to use to monitor and enforce compliance by the school districts and charter schools in the implementation of the workgroup’s recommended campus hardening and harm mitigation strategies

s. 1001.212(11), F.S
Report Requirements

Commissioner of Education reviews the School Hardening and Harm Mitigation Workgroup’s report and submits a summary of recommendations to the Governor, Senate President, and House Speaker

- Due September 1, 2020

S. 1001.10(9), F.S.
Recommendations from the Second Interim Report of the 20th Statewide Grand Jury

Address awareness-based educational initiatives for students, teachers, parents and school officials

• Suspicious activity reporting [campaign]
  • Education on what to report and how
  • Example – flyer or poster

• Couple reporting with a professionally-vetted instrument

• Render available psychological research and reporting mechanisms into informational tools that are easy for students, parents and teachers to understand
Recommendations from the Second Interim Report of the 20th Statewide Grand Jury (continued)

- Ensure tools are properly disseminated
- Consider requirements of school districts to properly display and distribute informational tools
- Consider requirements for school districts to publicize reporting instruments like FortifyFL where appropriate
Work Group Timeline

- **Dec. 20th:** Kick-off Conference Call
- **Jan. 10th:** Focus Areas Confirmed
- **Jan 17th:** Suwanee County Mid-term Conference Call
- **March 2nd:** Hillsbrough County
  Mid-term Conference Call
- **Baker County (tentative)**
- **Meeting TBD**
- **Meeting TBD**
- **May 30th:** Final Thoughts
- **July 1st:** Complete Draft Report
- **August 1st:** Report sent to OSS Director
- **Sept. 1st:** FDOE Commissioner submits report summary to Governor/Senate/House
Action Items

Conference Calls/Meetings

- **December 20** – Kick-off conference call
- **March** – Mid-term conference call
- **June** – Final Conference call

Site Visits

- **January 17** – Suwannee County
- **February** – Face to Face workshop, Sumter EOC
- **March 2** – Hillsborough County
- **April 14** – Baker (tentative)
- **April 22 & 23** – Colorado
- **Late April** – Face to Face meeting (planning – Tallahassee)
- **May** – TBD
- **May 30** – Final thoughts

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# Focus Areas

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<th>Access and Functional Needs</th>
<th>Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design</th>
<th>Suspicious Activity Reporting and Awareness</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Planning</td>
<td>Access Control and Technology</td>
<td>Emergency Communications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incident Management, &amp;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mitigation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel, Policies &amp;</td>
<td>Surrounding Area and Community Partnerships</td>
<td>Tier and Valuation Methodology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reunification</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Mental Health &amp; Behavioral Threat Assessments</td>
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Focus Area Considerations

Each Focus Area will need to consider the following:

• Budget Estimation

• Building Code
  • Existing Construction
  • New Construction

• Timeline for Implementation
3rd Floor – Window at west end of hall
Making School a Safe Haven, Not a Fortress

The new Sandy Hook Elementary School, in Newtown, Conn., built in the wake of 2012’s school massacre in that community, incorporates features intended to assure student safety while fostering a positive school environment. Among them is controlled access via three footbridges, and a sunken rock rain garden that acts as a buffer as well as an educational tool.

—Robert Benson Photography
Resources

• Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission
  • Initial Report
  • Second Report
• Executive Order Number 19-45
• Best Practices for School Hardening and Harm Mitigation
• Second Interim Report of the Statewide Grand Jury
• ShareFile Location:
  https://fldoe.sharefile.com/Authentication/Login