

SB 7030 – Implementation of Recommendations of the MSDHS Public Safety Commission

By Senate Education Committee (HB 7093 by House Education Committee)

AMENDS: Sections 30.15, 843.08, 943.03, 943.082, 1001.10, 1001.11, 1001.212, 1002.33, 1003.25, 1006.07, 1006.12, 1006.13, 1006.1493, 1011.62, F.S.

REENACTS: Section 921.0022(3)(b), F.S.

EFFECTIVE: Upon becoming a law except as otherwise expressly provided

This bill has school board policy implications

The bill builds upon the school safety and security foundation established in SB 7026 enacted in the 2018 Legislative Session by addressing several of the school safety and security recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission, and by clarifying and strengthening oversight and accountability in the implementation of the law.

Safe-School Officers (Bill Sections 1, 2, 3, 11)

The bill amends s. 1006.12, F.S., relating to safe-school officers at each public school, as follows:

- Requires each school board and superintendent to partner with law enforcement agencies or security agencies to establish or assign one or more safe-school officer at each school facility within the district, including charter schools.
- Requires a school board to collaborate with charter school governing boards to facilitate charter school access to all safe-school officer options available.
- Provides that the district may implement any combination of the following four options to best meet the needs of the district and charter school for safe-school officers.
 - School Resource Officer – A district may establish school resource officer programs. School resource officers shall undergo criminal background checks, drug testing, and a psychological evaluation and be certified law enforcement officers who are employed by a law enforcement agency as defined in s. 943.10(4), F.S. The powers and duties of a law enforcement officer shall continue throughout the employee’s tenure as a school resource officer.
 - School Safety Officer – A school district may commission one or more school safety officers. School safety officers shall undergo criminal background checks, drug testing, and a psychological evaluation and be law enforcement officers certified under the provisions of chapter 943 and employed by either a law enforcement agency or by the district school board. A school safety officer has and shall exercise the power to make arrests for violations of law on district school board property and to arrest persons, whether on or off such property, who violate any law under the same conditions that deputy sheriffs are authorized to make arrests.
 - School Guardian – At the district’s or charter school governing board’s discretion, as applicable, pursuant to s. 30.15, F.S., a district or charter school governing board may participate in the guardian program. The following individuals may serve as a school guardian, in support of school-sanctioned activities for purposes of s. 790.115, F.S., (possessing or discharging weapons or firearms at a school-sponsored event or on school property) upon satisfactory completion of the requirements under s. 30.15(1)(k), F.S., and certification by a sheriff:
 - A school district employee or personnel, as defined under s. 1012.01, F.S., or a charter school employee, as provided under s. 1002.33(12)(a), F.S., who volunteers to serve as a school guardian in addition to his or her official job duties; or
 - An employee of a school district or a charter school who is hired for the specific purpose of serving as a school guardian.
 - School Security Guard – A school district or charter school governing board may contract with a security agency as defined in s. 493.6101(18), F.S., to employ a school security guard who holds a Class “D” and Class “G” license pursuant to chapter 493, F.S., provided the following training and contractual conditions are met:
 - An individual who serves as a school security guard, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of this section, must:
 - Demonstrate completion of 144 hours of required guardian training.

- Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a licensed psychologist designated by the FDLE and submit the results of the evaluation to the sheriff's office, school district, or charter school governing board, as applicable. FDLE is authorized to provide the sheriff's office, school district, or charter school governing board with mental health and substance abuse data for compliance with this provision.
 - Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s. 112.0455, F.S., and the sheriff's office, school district, or charter school governing board, as applicable.
 - Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon inspection, and firearm qualification on at least an annual basis and provide documentation to the sheriff's office, school district, or charter school governing board, as applicable.
 - The contract between a security agency and a school district or a charter school governing board regarding requirements applicable to school security guards serving in the capacity of a safe-school officer for purposes of satisfying the requirements of this section shall define the entity or entities responsible for training and the responsibilities for maintaining records relating to training, inspection, and firearm qualification.
 - School security guards serving in the capacity of a safe-school officer are in support of school-sanctioned activities for purposes of s. 790.115, F.S., and must aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises.
- Requires a district to notify the county sheriff and the Office of Safe Schools immediately after, but no later than 72 hours after:
 - A safe-school officer is dismissed for misconduct or is otherwise disciplined.
 - A safe-school officer discharges his or her firearm in the exercise of the safe-school officer's duties, other than for training purposes.
- Retains exemption from public records any information that would identify whether a particular individual has been appointed as a safe-school officer.
- Provides that, if a district school board, through its adopted policies, procedures, or actions, denies a charter school access to any safe-school officer, the school district must assign a school resource officer or school safety officer to the charter school. Under such circumstances, the charter school's share of the costs of the school resource officer or school safety officer may not exceed the safe school allocation funds provided to the charter school pursuant to s. 1011.62(15), F.S., and shall be retained by the school district.

The bill amends s. 30.15, F.S., relating to the powers, duties, and obligations of sheriffs as follows:

- Requires sheriffs to assist school boards and charter school governing boards in complying with s. 1006.12, F.S., relating to safe-school officers and must, at a minimum, provide access to a guardian program.
- Provides that, if the local school board has voted by a majority to implement a guardian program, the sheriff in that county must establish a guardian program to provide training as required to school district or charter school employees, either directly or through a contract with another sheriff's office that has established a guardian program.
- Provides that a charter school governing board in a school district that has not voted, or has declined, to implement a guardian program may request the sheriff in the county to establish a guardian program for the purpose of training the charter school employees. If the county sheriff denies the request, the governing board may contract with a sheriff that has established a guardian program to provide such training. The governing board must notify the superintendent and the sheriff in the charter school's county of the contract prior to its execution.
- Provides that the sheriff conducting the training will be reimbursed for screening and training-related costs and for providing a one-time stipend of \$500 to each school guardian who participates in the school guardian program.
- Removes the exclusion from participating in the guardian program of individuals who exclusively perform classroom duties as classroom teachers.

- Requires a sheriff who establishes a guardian program to consult with FDLE on programmatic guiding principles, practices, and resources and shall certify school guardians or contract employees as specified in s. 1006.12(3), F.S., who:
 - Hold a valid license issued under s. 790.06, F.S., to carry concealed weapon or firearm;
 - Complete a 144-hour training program, consisting of 12 hours of a certified nationally recognized diversity training and 132 total hours of comprehensive firearm safety and proficiency training conducted by Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission-certified instructors,
 - Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a licensed psychologist licensed designated by the FDLE and submit the results of the evaluation to the sheriff's office. The FDLE is authorized to provide the sheriff's office with mental health and substance abuse data for compliance with this provision.
 - Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s. 112.0455, F.S., and the sheriff's office.
 - Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon inspection, and firearm qualification on at least an annual basis.
- Requires sheriff who conducts guardian training to issue certificate to individuals who meet the requirements to the satisfaction of the sheriff, but specifies that an individual who is certified as a guardian may serve as a guardian only if appointed by the applicable school superintendent or charter school principal.
- Retains the provision that persons certified as school guardians have no authority to act in any law enforcement capacity except to the extent necessary to prevent or abate an active assailant incident.

The bill amends s. 843.08, F.S., relating to false personation, to add school guardians as described in s. 30.15(1)(k), F.S., and security officers licensed under chapter 493, F.S., to the list of individuals who, depending upon the circumstances, may be charged with a first, second, or third degree felony for false personation.

The bill amends s. 943.03, F.S., relating to the Department of Law Enforcement, to provide that, upon request, the FDLE must consult with sheriffs to provide input regarding programmatic guiding principles, practices, and resources in order to assist in the development and implementation of the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program. Such input and guidance may include, but need not be limited to, standards, curriculum, instructional strategies, evaluation, certification, records retention, equipment, and other resource needs.

Commissioner of Education & Office of Safe Schools (Bill Sections 5, 6, 7, 13)

The bill amends ss. 1001.10 & 1001.11, F.S., relating to the powers and duties of the Commissioner of Education, as follows:

- Requires the commissioner to review the report of the School Hardening and Harm Mitigation Workgroup regarding hardening and harm mitigation strategies and recommendations submitted by the Office of Safe Schools and, by September 1, 2020, submit a summary of such recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- Requires the commissioner to oversee compliance with the safety and security requirements of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act (SB 7026) by school districts, district school superintendents, and public schools, including charter schools.
- Requires the commissioner to facilitate compliance to the maximum extent provided under law, identify incidents of noncompliance, and impose or recommend to the State Board of Education, the Governor, or the Legislature enforcement and sanctioning actions pursuant to s. 1008.32, F.S., (relating to State Board of Education oversight enforcement authority) and other authority granted under law.

The bill amends s. 1001.212, F.S., relating to the FDOE Office of Safe Schools (OSS), as follows:

- Requires the OSS to provide annual training to appropriate school district and charter school personnel on the proper assessment of physical site security and completion of the school security risk assessment tool.
- Requires the OSS to coordinate with FDLE to provide a centralized integrated data repository and data analytics resources to improve access to information integrating data from specified data sources by August 1, 2019 (rather than December 1, 2018).
- Revises and adds to the data sources providing information to the data repository so that the list of data sources is as follows:
 - Social media Internet posts;
 - Department of Children and Families;
 - Department of Law Enforcement;
 - Department of Juvenile Justice
 - Mobile suspicious activity reporting tool known as FortifyFL;
 - School environmental safety incident reports; and
 - Local law enforcement.
- Provides that data that is exempt or confidential and exempt from public records requirements retains its exempt or confidential and exempt status when incorporated into the centralized integrated data repository. To maintain the confidentiality requirements attached to the information provided to the centralized integrated data repository by the various state and local agencies:
 - Data governance and security shall ensure compliance with all applicable state and federal data privacy requirements through the use of user authorization and role-based security, data anonymization and aggregation and auditing capabilities.
 - Each source agency providing data to the repository shall be the sole custodian of the data for the purpose of any request for inspection or copies thereof under chapter 119, F.S.
 - The department shall only allow access to data from the source agencies in accordance with rules adopted by the respective source agencies and the requirements of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Justice Information Services security policy, where applicable.
- Requires the OSS to provide data to support the evaluation of mental health services pursuant to s. 1004.44, F.S., relating to the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute within the University of South Florida.
- Requires the OSS to provide technical assistance to school districts and charter school governing boards for school environmental safety incident reporting as required under s. 1006.07(9), F.S. The OSS shall collect data through school environmental safety incident reports on incidents involving any person which occur on school premises, on school transportation, and at off-campus, school sponsored events. The office shall review and evaluate school district reports to ensure compliance with reporting requirements. Upon notification by the department that a superintendent has failed to comply with the requirements of s. 1006.07(9), F.S., the district school board shall withhold further payment of his or her salary as authorized under s. 1001.42(13)(b), F.S., and impose other appropriate sanctions that the commissioner may impose.
- Requires the OSS to convene a School Hardening and Harm Mitigation Workgroup (workgroup) composed of individuals with subject matter expertise on school campus hardening best practices.
 - The workgroup shall meet as necessary to review school hardening and harm mitigation policies, including, but not limited to:
 - The target hardening practices implemented in other states;
 - The 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 pursuant to s. 943.687(9), F.S.; and
 - The Florida Building Code for educational facilities construction to determine whether the building code may need to be modified to strengthen school safety and security.

- Based on this review, by August 1, 2020, the workgroup shall submit a report to the executive director of the OSS which includes, at a minimum, a prioritized list for the implementation of school campus hardening and harm mitigation strategies and the estimated costs of and timeframes for implementation of the strategies by school districts and charter schools. The estimated costs must include regional and statewide projections of the implementation costs.
- The OSS must submit to the commissioner the workgroup's report and recommendations regarding procedures for the OSS to use to monitor and enforce compliance by school districts and charter schools in the implementation of the workgroup's recommended campus hardening and harm mitigation strategies.
- The provisions relating to the workgroup are repealed June 30, 2023.
- Requires OSS by August 1, 2019, to develop a standardized, statewide behavioral threat assessment instrument for use by all public schools, including charter schools, which addresses early identification, evaluation, early intervention, and student support.
 - The standardized, statewide behavioral threat assessment instrument must include, but need not be limited to, components and forms that address:
 - An assessment of the threat, which includes an assessment of the student, family, and school and social dynamics.
 - An evaluation to determine if the threat is transient or substantive.
 - The response to a substantive threat, which includes the school response and the role of law enforcement agencies.
 - The response to a serious substantive threat, including mental health and law enforcement referrals.
 - Ongoing monitoring to assess implementation of safety strategies.
 - Training for members of threat assessment teams established under s. 1006.07(7), F.S., and school administrators regarding the use of the instrument.
 - The OSS shall:
 - By August 1, 2020, evaluate each school district's and charter school governing board's behavioral threat assessment procedures for compliance with these provisions.
 - Notify the district school superintendent or charter school governing board, as applicable, if the behavioral threat assessment is not in compliance.
 - Report any issues of ongoing noncompliance to the Commissioner and the district school superintendent or the charter school governing board, as applicable.
- Requires the OSS Office to establish the Statewide Threat Assessment Database Workgroup, composed of members appointed by FDOE, to complement the work of FDOE and FDLE associated with the centralized integrated data repository and data analytics resources initiative and make recommendations regarding the development of a statewide threat assessment database.
 - The database must allow authorized public school personnel to enter information related to any threat assessment conducted at their respective schools using the instrument developed by the OSS, and must provide such information to authorized personnel in each school district and public school and to appropriate stakeholders.
 - By December 31, 2019, the workgroup shall provide a report to the OSS with recommendations that include, but need not be limited to:
 - Threat assessment data that should be required to be entered into the database.
 - School district and public school personnel who should be allowed to input student records to the database and view such records.
 - Database design and functionality, to include data security.
 - Restrictions and authorities on information sharing, including:
 - Section 1002.22, F.S., and other applicable state laws.
 - The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and other applicable federal laws.
 - The appropriateness of interagency agreements that will allow law enforcement to view database records.

- The cost to develop and maintain a statewide online database.
 - An implementation plan and timeline for the workgroup recommendations.
- Requires the OSS Office to monitor compliance with requirements relating to school safety by school districts and public schools, including charter schools. The office shall report incidents of noncompliance to the commissioner pursuant to s. 1001.11(9), F.S., and the State Board of Education pursuant to s. 1008.32, F.S., and other requirements of law, as appropriate.
- Requires the OSS to annually publish a list detailing:
 - The total number of safe-school officers in this state;
 - The total number of safe-school officers disciplined or relieved of their duties because of misconduct in the previous year;
 - The total number of disciplinary incidents involving safe-school officers; and
 - The number of incidents in which a safe-school officer discharged a firearm outside of a training situation or in the exercise of the duties as a safe-school officer.

The bill amends s. 1006.1492, F.S., relating to the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT), as follows:

- Requires that the FSSAT is the primary physical site security assessment tool as revised and required by the OSS which is used by school officials at each school district and public school site in the state in conducting security assessments.
- Requires the security consulting firm under contract with the FDOE for the FSSAT to review recommendations of the School Hardening and Harm Mitigation Workgroup to address physical security measures identified by FSSAT.
- Requires the OSS to make the FSSAT available no later than May 1 of each year.
- Requires the OSS to provide annual training to each district's school safety specialist and other appropriate school district personnel on the assessment of physical site security and completing the FSSAT.

School Districts and Charter Schools (Bill Sections 4, 8, 9, 10, 12)

The bill amends s. 1006.07, F.S., relating to district school board duties relating to student discipline and school safety, as follows:

- Clarifies that, at the time of initial registration for school in the school district, each student must note previous school expulsions, arrests resulting in a charge, juvenile justice actions, and any corresponding referral (rather than any referrals) to mental health services by the school district.
- Provides that drills for active shooter and hostage situations must be conducted in accordance with developmentally appropriate and age-appropriate procedures.
- Provides that the school safety specialist must be a school administrator employed by the district or a law enforcement officer employed by the sheriff's office located in the district. Any school safety specialist designated from the sheriff's office:
 - Must first be authorized and approved by the sheriff employing the law enforcement officer.
 - Remains the employee of the office for purposes of compensation, insurance, workers' compensation, and other benefits authorized by law for a law enforcement officer employed by the sheriff's office. The sheriff and the school superintendent may determine by agreement the reimbursement for such costs, or may share the costs, associated with employment of the law enforcement officer as a school safety specialist.
- Provides that, in addition to other existing duties, the school safety specialist shall:
 - Review district policies for compliance with state law and rules, including the district's timely and accurate submission of school environmental safety incident report (SESIR) to FDOE.
 - In collaboration with appropriate public safety agencies, as the term is defined in s. 365.171, F.S., by October 1 of each year, conduct school security risk assessment at each public school using Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT). Based on the assessment findings, the safety specialist shall provide recommendations to the superintendent and school board which identifies strategies that school board should implement to address the findings and improve school safety and security.

- Requires each school board and charter school governing board to adopt active assailant response plan.
- Requires, by October 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, each school superintendent and charter school principal to certify that all school personnel have received annual training on procedures contained in the active assailant response plan for the applicable school district or charter school.
- Revises requirements for Threat Assessment Teams as follows:
 - Requires that policies for the establishment of threat assessment teams include, among other provisions, procedures for behavioral threat assessments in compliance with the instrument developed pursuant to s. 1001.212(12), F.S.
 - Provides that, upon availability of the behavioral threat assessment instrument developed pursuant to s. 1001.212(12), F.S., the threat assessment team must use that instrument.
 - Provides that, when there is a preliminary determination by the threat assessment team that a student does pose a threat of violence to himself or herself or others or exhibits significantly disruptive behavior or need for assistance, authorized members of the threat assessment team may obtain criminal history record information pursuant to s. 985.04(1), F.S.
 - Provides that, for a student who have been in receipt of intervention services and upon that student's transfer to a different school, the threat assessment team must verify that any intervention services provided to the student remain in place until the threat assessment team of receiving school independently determines the need for intervention services.
 - Requires the threat assessment team to utilize the threat assessment database developed pursuant to s. 1001.212(13), F.S., upon the availability of the database.
- Revises provisions relating to school environmental safety incident reporting as follows:
 - Each district school board must adopt policies to ensure the accurate and timely reporting of incidents related to school safety and discipline.
 - The district school superintendent is responsible for school environmental safety incident reporting. A district school superintendent who fails to comply with reporting requirements is subject to the penalties specified in law, including, but not limited to, s. 1001.42(13)(b), F.S., or s. 1001.51(12)(b), F.S., relating to withholding of salary, as applicable.
 - The State Board of Education is directed to adopt rules establishing the requirements for the school environmental safety incident report (SESIR).

The bill amends s. 1006.13, F.S., relating to a policy of zero tolerance for crime and victimization, as follows:

- Provides that zero-tolerance policies may not be rigorously applied to petty acts of misconduct, but alternatives to expulsion or referral to law enforcement no longer available for misdemeanors, including, but not limited to, minor fights or disturbances.
- Deletes use of the word "serious" as it applies to threats to school safety.
- Provides that the district policy of zero tolerance must:
 - Define criteria for reporting to a law enforcement agency any act that poses a threat to school safety that occurs whenever or wherever students are within the jurisdiction of the district school board.
 - Define acts that pose a threat to school safety.
 - Define petty acts of misconduct which are not a threat to school safety and do not require consultation with law enforcement.
- Provides that agreements that the district school board enters into with the sheriff's office and local police department must include the role of school resource officers, if applicable, in handling reported incidents and a procedure requiring school personnel to consult with school resource officers concerning appropriate delinquent acts and crimes.
- Requires the school principal to notify all school personnel as to their responsibilities regarding incident reporting, that which pose a threat to school safety and crimes are properly reported to the school principal, or his or her designee, and that the disposition of the incident is properly documented.

The bill amends s. 943.082, F.S., relating to the School Safety Awareness Program, to provide that the district school board must promote the use of the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool, FortifyFL, by advertising it on the school district website, in newsletters, on school campuses, and in school publications, by installing it on all mobile devices issued to students, and by bookmarking the website on all computer devices issued to students.

The bill amends s. 1002.33, F.S., relating to charter schools, to add to the list of statutes for which charter schools must be in compliance to include:

- Section 1006.12, relating to safe-school officers.
- Section 1006.07(7), relating to threat assessment teams.
- Section 1006.07(9), relating to School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR).
- Section 1006.1493, relating to the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT).
- Section 1006.07(6)(c), relating to adopting an active assailant response plan.
- Section 943.082(4)(b), relating to the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool (FortifyFL).
- Section 1012.584, relating to youth mental health awareness and assistance training.

The bill amends s. 1003.25, F.S., relating to the maintenance and transfer of student records, to provide that, for students who transfer from school to school, the transfer of records must occur within 3 school days. The records shall include:

- Verified reports of serious or recurrent behavior patterns, including threat assessment evaluations and intervention services.
- Psychological evaluations, including therapeutic treatment plans and therapy or progress notes created or maintained by school district staff.

Funding (Bill Sections 14, 15)

The bill amends s. 1011.62, F.S., relating to funds for the operation of schools, as follows:

- Amends s. 1011.62(6), F.S., relating to categorical funds, to revise the list of categoricals from which funds may be transferred if a school board declares in a resolution that funds are needed to maintain classroom instruction or improve school safety. The following categoricals are added:
 - Funds for the ESE guaranteed allocation
 - Funds for the supplemental academic instruction allocation
 - Funds for the Florida digital classrooms allocation
 - Funds for the federally connected student supplement
 - Funds for class size reduction
- Amends s. 1011.62(15), F.S., relating to the Safe Schools Allocation, as follows:
 - Provides that these funds are to assist school districts with compliance with ss. 1006.07-1006.12, F.S. (rather than only s. 1006.07, F.S.) with priority given to safe-school officers (rather than school resource officers).
 - Provides that any additional funds appropriated to this allocation in the 2018-2019 fiscal year (via SB 7026) must be used exclusively for employing or contracting for safe-school officers (rather than school resource officers) established or assigned under s. 1006.12, F.S. This provision applies retroactively to July 1, 2018.
 - Provides that, after a minimum allocation is provided to each school district, the balance will be allocated with one-third (rather than two-thirds) based on the most recent Florida Crime Index and two-thirds (rather than one-third) based on each school district's proportionate share of the state's total unweighted full-time equivalent student enrollment.
 - Requires each school district to report to the FDOE by October 15 that all public schools within the school district have completed the school security risk assessment using the FSSAT developed pursuant to s. 1006.1493, F.S.
 - Provides that, if a district school board is required by s. 1006.12, F.S., to assign a school resource officer or school safety officer to a charter school, the charter school's share of costs for such officer may not exceed the amount of funds allocated to the charter school under Safe Schools Allocation.

- Amends s. 1011.62(16), F.S., relating to the Mental Health Assistance Allocation, as follows:
 - Adds to the purposes of the allocation to include provision of funds to:
 - Train educators and other school staff in detecting and responding to mental health issues.
 - Connect children, youth, and families who may experience behavioral health issues with appropriate services.
 - Deletes the requirement that at least 90 percent of a district's allocation must be expended on specified elements.
 - Provides that the district's plan outlining the local program and planned expenditures must include all district schools, including charter schools, unless a charter school elects to submit a plan independently from the school district.
 - Provides that charter schools that submit a plan separate from the school district are entitled to a proportionate share of district funding.
 - Provides that the plan must be focused on a multi-tiered system of supports to deliver evidence-based mental health care assessment, diagnosis, intervention, treatment, and recovery services to students with one or more mental health or co-occurring substance abuse diagnoses and to students at high risk of such diagnoses. The provision of these services must be coordinated with a student's primary mental health care provider and with other mental health providers involved in the student's care.
 - Provides that, at a minimum, the plans must include the following elements:
 - Direct employment of school-based mental health services providers to expand and enhance school-based student services and to reduce the ratio of students to staff in order to better align with nationally recommended ratio models. These providers include, but are not limited to, certified school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, and other licensed mental health professionals. The plan also must identify strategies to increase the amount of time that school-based student services personnel spend providing direct services to students, which may include the review and revision of district staffing resource allocations based on school or student mental health assistance needs.
 - Contracts or interagency agreements with one or more local community behavioral health providers or providers of Community Action Team services to provide a behavioral health staff presence and services at district schools. Services may include, but are not limited to, mental health screenings and assessments, individual counseling, family counseling, group counseling, psychiatric or psychological services, informed care, mobile crisis services, and behavior modification. These behavioral health services may be provided on or off the school campus and may be supplemented by telehealth.
 - Policies and procedures, including contracts with service providers, which will ensure that students who are referred to a school-based or community-based mental health service provider for mental health screening for the identification of mental health concerns and ensure that the assessment of students at risk for mental health disorders occurs within 15 days of referral. School-based mental health services must be initiated within 15 days after identification and assessment, and support by community-based mental health service providers for students who are referred for based mental health services must be initiated within 30 days after the school or district makes a referral.
 - Strategies or programs to reduce the likelihood of risk students developing social, emotional, or behavioral health problems, depression, anxiety disorders, suicidal tendencies, or substance use disorders.
 - Strategies to improve the early identification of social, emotional, or behavioral problems or substance use disorders, to improve the provision of early intervention services, and to assist students in dealing with trauma and violence.
 - Revises and adds to reporting requirements to provide that, beginning September 30, 2019, and annually thereafter, each district must submit a report to FDOE on its program outcomes and expenditures that, at a minimum, must include the number of each of the following:
 - Students who receive screenings or assessments.

- Students who are referred to either school-based or community-based providers for services or assistance.
- Students who receive either school-based or community-based interventions, services, or assistance.
- School-based and community-based mental health providers, including licensure type, paid for from funds 1387 provided through the allocation.
- Contract-based collaborative efforts or partnerships with community mental health programs, agencies, or providers.

The bill re-enacts s. 921.0222, F.S., for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to s. 843.08, F.S.

The bill provides that the Legislature finds that a proper and legitimate state purpose is served when district school boards are afforded options for the provision of safe-school officers for the protection and safety of school personnel, property, students, and visitors. School guardians must be available to any district school board that chooses such an option. Therefore, the Legislature determines and declares that this act fulfills an important state interest.