

Office of Safe Schools Monitoring Visits Overview

Office of Safe Schools



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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 and schools in providing a safe learning environment for students and educators

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Regional FDOE Safe Schools Monitoring Visits

- Evaluate compliance with legislative requirements and use of best practices for school safety.
- The monitoring visit template is completed and provided to the District School Safety Specialist (SSS) and school administration in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT) (s. 1006.1493, F.S.)
 - Each district school superintendent is required to designate a school administrator as a school safety specialist for the district.
 - School safety specialists are responsible for the supervision and oversight for all school safety and security personnel, policies, and procedures in the school district.



Compliance Monitoring

- The Office of Safe Schools is responsible for monitoring compliance of school safety requirements set forth in legislation.
- The Office (OSS) monitors compliance with school safety requirements identified in rule through onsite visits to schools and district facilities or offices, review of school and district websites and publications, interviews with students and staff, and review of media reports and other information submitted to or received by the Office. (Rule 6A-1.0018, F.A.C.)



Best Practices

The School based best practices are based on the following:

- Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission (s. 943.687, F.S.) recommendations
 - Led by Sheriff Gualtieri and a group of 16 members who convene regularly to:
 - Investigate system failures, and
 - Develop recommendations for system improvements
- Statewide Grand Jury reports
- Best Practices for School Hardening and Harm Mitigation



Best Practices

Best Practices included in the monitoring visit:

- Perimeter Fencing and secured gates
- Main/Visitor Entrance
 - Signage
 - Security measures used
- Exterior window visibility
- Marked law enforcement vehicle on campus
- Visitor vetting process
- Camera system and law enforcement access
- Staff emergency communication
- Safe Corners/Safe Areas for Active Assailant Drills
- Visibility into the classrooms
- Locked classroom doors



Safe School Officer (SSO) coverage

- 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 (law enforcement)
 - School Safety Officer (law enforcement)
 - Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian
 - School Security Guard (contracted security trained through the Sheriff's Office Guardian Program)



FortifyFL - (s. 943.082, F.S.)

The district school board shall promote the use:

 By advertising on the school district website, in newsletters, on school campuses, in school publications, installed on all mobile devices issued to students, and bookmarking the website on all computer devices issued to students.





Emergency Drills (Rule 6A-1.0018(15)(d)2., F.A.C.)

Elementary, middle and high schools are required to conduct six (6) emergency drills every school year that are nonconcurrent with fire drills.

- The first drill must take place within the first ten (10) days of the beginning of the school year.
- The remaining drills must take place at least every forty-five (45) days that school is in session.
- Four (4) of the six (6) emergency drills must address active threats.
- The remaining two (2) drills must address other emergency events, such as severe weather, natural disasters, hazardous materials, or reunification.

DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED



Active Assailant Drills (Rule 6A-1.0018(15)(d)2., F.A.C.)

- The School Safety Specialist must coordinate with the sheriff in their County to identify which LEO must respond to each school in their district in the event of an active assailant emergency and *must* provide those officers a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours' notice prior to conducting an active assailant emergency drill, pursuant to s. 1006.07(4)(a), F.S.
- These law enforcement officers *must be physically present on each school campus and directly involved in the execution of active assailant emergency drills*, unless their presence is determined to be unnecessary by the sheriff.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED



Emergency Drills (6A-1.0018(15)(c), F.A.C.)

- **Plain language** must be used to communicate the nature of the emergency and instructions to students and staff.
 - Plain language means communication that can be understood by the intended audience, which is free of coded language, jargon, and acronyms, and meets the purpose of the communicator.
- Emergency drills and fire drills must test all applicable functions included in the threat scenario, such as <u>panic buttons</u>, participant movement (lockdown, shelter-in-place, or evacuation), simulated communications with first responders, notification to parents, and appropriate protective actions, such as turning off lights, and covering windows.
- Districts must vary the conditions of emergency drills and fire drills.
- Must be conducted in accordance with developmentally appropriate and ageappropriate procedures.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

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After Action Report (Rule 6A-1.0018(15)(b), F.A.C.) Must be completed following each emergency drill and fire drill. After-action reports must identify the type of drill, location and date of the drill, participants, and involvement of law enforcement or other public safety agencies. In addition, the after-action report must describe actions taken by participants, must analyze areas of success and areas where improvement is needed, and include input from public safety agencies and a plan for corrective action. After-action reports must be submitted to the district school safety specialist for review fifteen (15) calendar days following drill completion.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED



Active Assailant Response Plans (s. 1006.07, F.S.)

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)

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED (certificates or sign in logs)





Alyssa's Alert

 In accordance with (s.) - 1006.07(4), F.S. all Florida public schools, including charters, must implement a mobile panic alert system capable of connecting diverse emergency services technologies to ensure real-time coordination between multiple first responder agencies...Such system, known as "Alyssa's Alert," must integrate with local public safety answering point infrastructure to transmit 911 calls and mobile activations.

VERIFICATION REQUIRED



Threat Management 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
 - School based threat management teams must meet monthly. (Rule 6A-1.0019, F.A.C.)
 - The use of the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines: CSTAG protocol (through December 31).

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED



Threat Management Teams (s. 1006.07 F.S.)

- Starting January 1, 2024, all threat management team members will be required to be trained on the Florida Model.
- Threat management teams must have a Chair and Vice Chair identified under the Florida Model.
- Threat Management teams must maintain documentation of their meetings, including dates, times, team members in attendance, cases discussed and actions taken.
- All threat management team members must be involved in the threat assessment process and final decision making.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED



SESIR: School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (s. 1006.07, F.S.)

- Data collection of 26 incidents of crime, violence and disruptive behaviors on school grounds, on school transportation and off-campus school-sponsored events
- 365 days/24 hours
- Students, staff, non-students or unknown offenders
- Administration responsible for school discipline is required to have SESIR training led by the Department or taking the online <u>www.sesir.org</u> training.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

(training certificates or training log)



Charter School Safety Requirements Rule 6A-1.0018(23), F.A.C.

- OSS as provided in subsection (5) of this rule, will provide any notices of suspected deficiency occurring at or by a charter school, to the district's school safety specialist for investigation and response.
- To ensure that a district school safety specialist is able to monitor and report on school safety and security at a charter school, each charter school must:
 - 1. Provide contact information in the manner and frequency required by the school safety specialist;
 - 2. Timely respond to requests for information and access made by the school safety specialist and the Office related to safety requirements set forth in this rule; and
 - 3. Coordinate with the school safety specialist on curing suspected deficiencies identified by the specialist and the Office.



Charter School Safety Requirements Rule 6A-1.0018(23), F.A.C.

Charter schools and their governing boards are responsible for meeting the safety requirements set forth in this rule. All safety requirements as set forth in subsections (6)-(17), (20) and (22) apply to charter schools, with any changes to the requirements set forth below:

- 1. Safe-school officer.
 - a. District school safety specialists are responsible for ensuring that all charter school facilities in their district have at least one (1) safe-school officer assigned and present on campus while school is in session.
 - b. Each charter school is authorized to establish its own policy on when a safeschool officer must be assigned to a school facility for extracurricular activities and for school-sponsored events or adopt the district's policy.
 - c. District school safety specialists must keep accurate records of the number and type of safe-school officers assigned to each charter school in the district.
 - d. Districts and charter school governing boards must work together to determine the type of safe-school officer under Section 1006.12, F.S., that will be assigned to each charter school. Any of the safe-school officer types permitted under Section 1006.12(1)-(4), F.S., may be assigned to a charter school.



Rule 6A-1.0018, F.A.C. All schools should have these on file

Per Rule 6A-1.0018(5)(b), F.A.C., "District and <u>school staff</u> must keep records demonstrating that the requirements in this rule are met and must provide those records to the Office upon request."

- □ All staff have received active assailant training documentation.
- □ Verification of Emergency drill dates
- □ Verification that law enforcement is participating in drills
- □ After-action reports for drills
- FortifyFL verification in newsletters, posted on campus, and on the student devices
- Student ID cards when applicable
- Threat assessment team membership
- Threat assessment team meeting documentation to include date, times, team members in attendance, cases discussed, and actions taken
- Required Threat assessment training verification
- SESIR training documentation or certificates



Office of Safe Schools

The Primary goals of the office:

Prevention

Intervention

Emergency Preparedness Planning



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