



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
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School Safety for Florida's Private Schools

October 20, 2023

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Office of Safe Schools





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Office of Safe Schools (OSS) s. 1001.212, F.S.

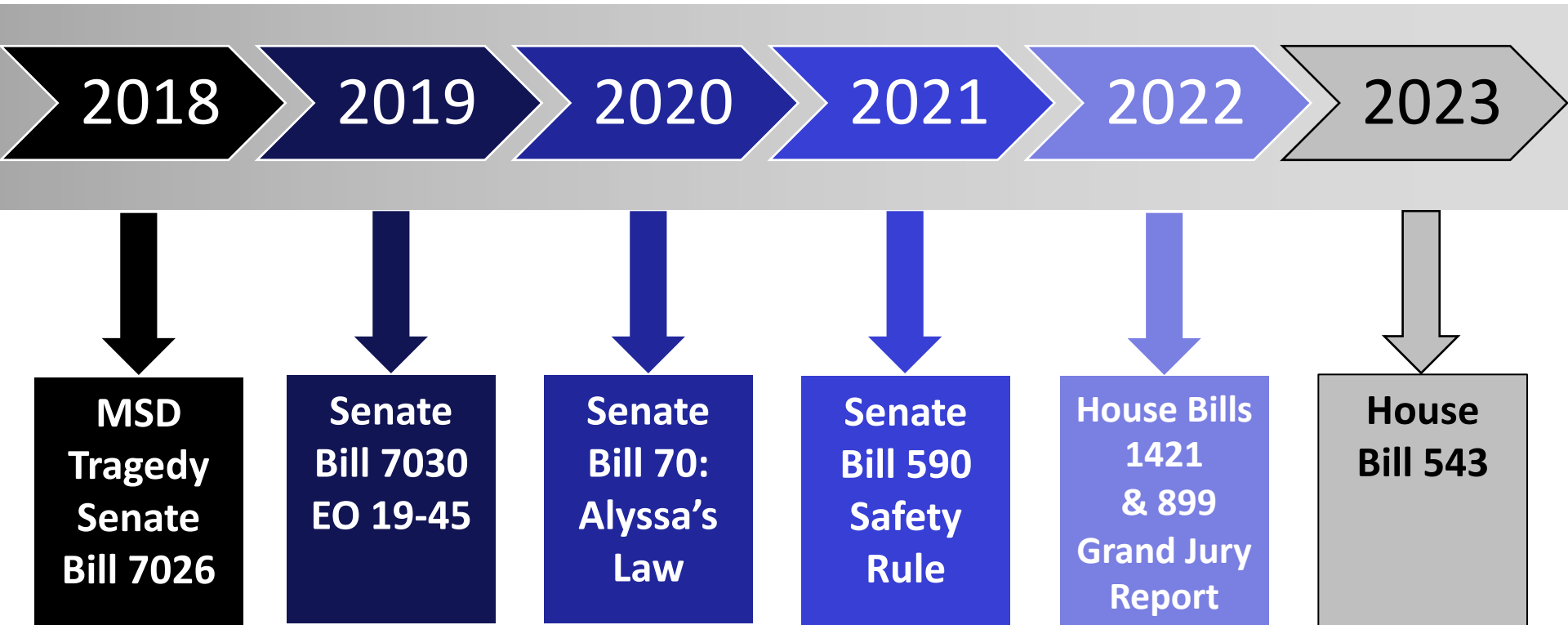
OSS serves as a central repository for best practices, training standards and *compliance* oversight in all matters regarding school safety and security

Our mission:

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

Florida School Safety

Marjory Stoneman Douglas (MSD) to Present



Safe-School Officers Assigned – 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
- Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian
- School Security Guard (contracted security, trained through Sheriff's Guardian Program)

In 2023, the Florida Legislature in HB 543 extended the Guardian program to private schools.



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

Guardians are armed and trained to respond to an active threat. They must:

- Complete 144 hours of training by a sheriff, including 80 hours of firearms instruction
- Achieve an 85 percent pass rate on the firearms training
- Pass a variety of screenings, including a psychological evaluation and drug test

If interested in establishing a Guardian program, contact one of the participating counties included on the Office of Safe Schools website:

www.fldoe.org/safe-schools/guardian-program.stml

Sheriffs - Powers, duties, and obligations – s. 30.15, F.S.

Sheriffs, in their respective counties...shall:

- Assist...private schools in exercising options in, s. 1006.12. (*safe-school officers*)

A private school in a school district that has not voted, or has declined, to implement a guardian program may request that the sheriff in the county of the private school establish a guardian program for the purpose of training private school employees.

Active Assailant Response Policy – s. 943.6873, F.S.

Active assailant response policy.

For the protection of all persons in this state, it is necessary and required that every law enforcement agency in this state be prepared to respond to an active assailant event. To be adequately prepared, **each law enforcement agency must create and maintain an active assailant response policy.**

FortifyFL – s. 943.082, F.S.

- 7,482 Public and Private Schools
- 252 Law Enforcement Agencies
- Over 29,000 Tips Reported to Date



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Safety Best Practices for All Schools

Every school should prioritize the safety and security of its students and staff. Any school can improve safety by implementing best practices.

- Perimeter and Exterior
- Main/Visitor Entrances
- Visitor vetting procedures
- Cameras and Communication
- Classroom Set Up
- Training

Safety Best Practices for All Schools

Perimeter and Exterior:

- Perimeter fencing
- Secondary/building to building fencing
- Secured or staffed gates
- CPTED principles for fencing (allows for visibility)
- Visibility into exterior windows/window coverage/tint
- Exterior building labeling
- Marked law enforcement vehicle on campus

Safety Best Practices for All Schools

Main/Visitor Entrance:

- Wayfinding Signage
- Security measures used at the main entrance to include:
 - Intercom system
 - Camera system
 - Remote door unlock system
 - Secured Vestibule and a secured receptionist desk

Safety Best Practices for All Schools

Visitor Vetting Procedures:

- ID checks prior to building entry
- Vetting visitors through visitor management system
- Background checks for volunteers and contractors
- Sign in logs to track visitors on campus

Safety Best Practices for All Schools

Cameras and Communication:

- Strategically placed cameras
- Ensuring all staff have the ability to communicate emergencies via phones in the classrooms, intercom buttons in classrooms, two-way radios, fixed panic buttons and/or mobile panic alert systems

Safety Best Practices for All Schools

Classroom Set Up:

- Locked classroom doors when occupied by students
- Limited visibility into classrooms/ability to limit visibility during a lockdown. (window coverings can include blinds, covers, tint, shutters, etc.)
- Safe corners/safe areas identified (Areas of the classroom not visible from classroom door or windows)

Safety Best Practices for All Schools

Training:

- Assailant response plans training for the staff
- Lockdown procedures for students and staff
- Drills/Exercises
- Collaboration with Law enforcement and Public safety agencies
- Reunification process and procedures

Other best practice resources can be found on the Office of Safe Schools Best Practices page:

www.fldoe.org/safe-schools/best-practices.shtml

Safety Best Practices for All Schools

Know your surroundings

- What hazards are nearby?
- Where can we safely evacuate?
- Who can help us in an emergency?
- What safety systems are already in place?
- How can we get needed safety improvements?

Safety Best Practices for All Schools

Know your students

- Who is struggling?
- How can we help those students?
- Do you conduct threat assessments to assess need for services?



Safety Best Practices for All Schools

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design or CPTED:

- Natural surveillance
- Access control
- Territoriality

*CPTED training provided through
the Office of Attorney General*



Safety Best Practices for All Schools

Know your resources

- Local public safety agencies
- [REMS Technical Assistance](https://rems.ed.gov) (rems.ed.gov)
- SchoolSafety.gov
- [Monique Burr Foundation](#): After-School Safety
- FEMA Independent Study Courses:
 - [IS0036.a](#) Preparedness for Child Care Providers
 - [IS0100](#) Introduction to the Incident Command System
 - [IS0360](#) Preparing for Mass Casualty Incidents:
 - [IS0362.a](#) Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools
 - [IS0366.a](#) Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters



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