

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education

BILL: SB 436

INTRODUCER: Senator Galvano

SUBJECT: Education

DATE: December 1, 2017

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Bouck</u>	<u>Graf</u>	<u>ED</u>	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	<u>RC</u>	_____

I. Summary:

SB 436 authorizes the Commissioner of Education to coordinate with school districts, Florida College System institutions, and the satellite offices of the Division of Blind Services and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to assess their need for resources and assistance in the event of an emergency situation.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2018.

II. Present Situation:

The Commissioner of Education (commissioner) is the chief educational officer of the state, and is responsible for giving full assistance to the State Board of Education (SBE) in enforcing compliance with the mission and goals of the K-20 education system except for the State University System.¹ The commissioner's office operates all statewide functions necessary to support the SBE, including strategic planning and budget development, general administration, assessment, and accountability.² The commissioner is appointed by the SBE³ and serves as the Executive Director of the Department of Education (DOE).⁴

The DOE is responsible for coordinating, when necessary, the use of educational facilities during emergency activations among federal and state agencies, local school districts, colleges and universities.⁵ The DOE also serves as the primary liaison in coordinating all phases of

¹ Section 1001.10(1), F.S.

² *Id.* at (2).

³ Art. IX, s. 2, Fla. Const.

⁴ Section 20.15(2), F.S.

⁵ Florida Division of Emergency Management, *The State of Florida 2016 Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, 2016 Draft Revision*,

[http://www.floridadisaster.org/documents/CEMP/2016/2016%20State%20CEMP%20\(COMPLETE%20FINAL%20DRAFT\).pdf](http://www.floridadisaster.org/documents/CEMP/2016/2016%20State%20CEMP%20(COMPLETE%20FINAL%20DRAFT).pdf), at 10 of ESF 6 Appendix.

emergency response from pre-disaster planning through post disaster recovery of educational facilities.⁶

DOE staff members are assigned to serve as contacts (called “Emergency Management (EM) Buddies”).⁷ Staff for the Divisions of Blind Services and Vocational Rehabilitation perform the same function for their local offices.⁸ In an emergency situation, the commissioner activates the EM Buddies for the affected areas of the state.⁹ The EM Buddies provide the direct communications conduit between the DOE, district school superintendents, Florida College System (FCS) institution presidents, and state and local emergency operations centers.¹⁰ The primary functions of the EM Buddies are to provide information directly to schools and districts, and to collect status information from district school superintendents, FCS institution presidents, and county emergency operations centers.¹¹ The role of the EM Buddies spans over three phases of an emergency event: preparedness for the emergency event and monitoring, survival of the event, and assessment of and recovery from the event.¹²

DOE emergency management staff transmit instructions and specific requests to, and receive regular reports from, EM Buddies.¹³ DOE emergency management staff organize information into regular reports for the commissioner¹⁴ and State Emergency Operations Center on shelter status, school closings and openings, plans, and needs.¹⁵

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 436 authorizes the Commissioner of Education (commissioner) to coordinate with school districts, Florida College System institutions, and the satellite offices of the Division of Blind Services and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to assess their need for resources and assistance in the event of an emergency situation.

⁶ Florida Division of Emergency Management, *The State of Florida 2016 Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, 2016 Draft Revision*, [http://www.floridadisaster.org/documents/CEMP/2016/2016%20State%20CEMP%20\(COMPLETE%20FINAL%20DRAFT\).pdf](http://www.floridadisaster.org/documents/CEMP/2016/2016%20State%20CEMP%20(COMPLETE%20FINAL%20DRAFT).pdf), at 10 of ESF 6 Appendix.

⁷ Florida Department of Education, Presentation to the Senate Committee on Education, *Emergency Coordination of State and Local Entities (Oct, 9, 2017)*, available at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/Show/ED/Meeting%20Packet/3952>, at 2. The Board of Governors employs a similar process for the state universities. *Id.*

⁸ Florida Department of Education, Presentation to the Senate Committee on Education, *Emergency Coordination of State and Local Entities (Oct, 9, 2017)*, available at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/Show/ED/Meeting%20Packet/3952>, at 2.

⁹ Email, Florida Department of Education (March 17, 2017).

¹⁰ Florida Department of Education, Presentation to the Senate Committee on Education, *Emergency Coordination of State and Local Entities (Oct, 9, 2017)*, available at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/Show/ED/Meeting%20Packet/3952>, at 3.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.* at 4.

¹³ *Id.* at 5.

¹⁴ Email, Florida Department of Education (March 17, 2017).

¹⁵ Florida Department of Education, Presentation to the Senate Committee on Education, *Emergency Coordination of State and Local Entities (Oct, 9, 2017)*, available at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/Show/ED/Meeting%20Packet/3952>, at 5.

According to the Florida Department of Education, the bill expands the commissioner's authority and responsibility for supporting all sectors during an emergency and will likely be helpful in securing necessary information in a timely manner before, during, and after any emergency situation.¹⁶ The needs assessment may expedite the provision of resources and assistance to enable each school, institution, or satellite office to reopen as soon as possible after considering the health, safety, and welfare of students and clients.¹⁷

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2018.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

¹⁶ Email, Florida Department of Education (March 17, 2017).

¹⁷ Florida Department of Education, *2018 Agency Bill Analysis for SB 436* (Oct. 16, 2017), at 2.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 1001.10 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
