A bill to be entitled
An act relating to school safety; amending s. 20.15,
F.S.; establishing the Office of Safe Schools within
the Department of Education; creating s. 943.687,
F.S.; creating the Commission on School Safety and
Security within the Florida Department of Law
Enforcement; specifying the composition of the
commission; specifying meeting requirements;
authorizing reimbursement for per diem and travel
expenses; providing the duties of the commission;
requiring Florida Department of Law Enforcement staff
to assist the commission; requiring a report to the
Governor, the Cabinet, and the Legislature within a
specified time; creating s. 1000.051, F.S.; providing
legislative intent regarding school safety and
security; creating s. 1001.217, F.S.; creating the
Office of Safe Schools; providing the purpose and
duties of the office; amending ss. 1002.221 and
1002.225, F.S.; providing for construction regarding
the applicability of public records exemptions for
security system plans and security systems; amending
s. 1006.04, F.S.; establishing the Multiagency Service
Network for Students with Severe Emotional
Disturbance; specifying the goals and duties of the
program; authorizing the Legislature to provide
funding to the department to award grants; creating s.
1006.05, F.S.; providing a purpose of the mental
health assistance allocation; requiring that school
districts and charter schools annually develop and
submit certain detailed plans; requiring that approved charter school plans be provided to the district for submission to the Commissioner of Education; providing that required plans must include certain elements; requiring school districts to annually submit approved plans to the commissioner by a specified date; requiring that entities receiving such allocations annually submit a final report on program outcomes and specific expenditures to the commissioner by a specified date; amending s. 1006.07, F.S.; requiring district school boards to formulate and prescribe policies and procedures for active shooter situations; requiring that active shooter situation training for each school be conducted by the law enforcement agency or agencies that are designated as first responders to the school’s campus; requiring each school district to designate a threat assessment team; requiring each school district to conduct certain assessments in a specified format; requiring a district school superintendent to provide specified entities with certain findings and certain strategy and activity recommendations to improve school safety and security; requiring that district school boards allow campus tours by such law enforcement agency or agencies at specified times and for specified purposes; requiring that certain recommendations be documented by such board or principal; requiring each district school board to designate or appoint a district school safety specialist; providing duties of the school safety
specialist; amending s. 1006.12, F.S.; requiring
district school boards to establish or assign safe-
school officers at each district school facility
within the district; requiring school resource
officers and school safety officers to undergo
specified evaluations; specifying that participation
in the Florida Sheriff’s Marshal Program meets the
requirement; creating s. 1006.149, F.S.; establishing
the Public School Emergency Response Learning System
Program within the department; establishing the
program as a partnership between local law enforcement
and public education entities; specifying activities,
training, notification systems, and resources provided
through the program; specifying the creation of a
preemptive plan of action; authorizing funding
provided by the Legislature to implement the program;
creating s. 1006.1491, F.S.; creating the Florida
Sheriff’s Marshal Program within the department;
specifying a purpose; defining terms; establishing
program eligibility requirements; authorizing special
deputy sheriffs to perform certain duties, under
specified circumstances; specifying training and
instructional requirements; specifying grounds for
termination and denial of participants; specifying
implementation requirements; authorizing funding as
provided by the Legislature; creating s. 1006.1493,
F.S.; requiring the department to contract with a
security consulting firm to develop, update, and
implement a risk assessment tool; providing
requirements for the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool; requiring reports, training, and advice in the security consulting firm contract; requiring a specified annual report to the Governor and Legislature by a specified date; providing for construction regarding the applicability of public records exemptions for certain security data and information; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; expanding the safe schools allocation to provide funding for specified school safety provisions; creating the mental health assistance allocation; providing the purpose of the allocation; requiring that funds be allocated annually in the General Appropriations Act; providing for the annual allocation of such funds on a specified basis; providing that eligible charter schools are entitled to a proportionate share; prohibiting the use of allocated funds to supplant funds provided from other operating funds, to increase salaries, or to provide bonuses, except in certain circumstances; requiring that school districts and schools maximize certain third-party funding; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (j) is added to subsection (3) of section 20.15, Florida Statutes, to read:

20.15 Department of Education.—There is created a Department of Education.
(3) DIVISIONS.—The following divisions of the Department of Education are established:

(j) The Office of Safe Schools.

Section 2. Section 943.687, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

943.687 Commission on School Safety and Security.—

(1) There is created within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement the Commission on School Safety and Security, a commission as defined in s. 20.03. The commission shall convene no later than June 1, 2018, and shall be composed of 15 members. Five members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, five members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and five members shall be appointed by the Governor. Each appointing authority shall appoint one member representing law enforcement, one representing schools, one member representing social service agencies, one member representing the judiciary, and one member who is a survivor or the relative of a victim of a mass shooting or a mass violence incident. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the officer who appointed the member. A vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. The terms of the members shall be for 1 year.

(2) The Commissioner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement shall chair the commission.

(3) The commission shall meet as necessary to conduct its work at the call of the chair and at the time designated by him or her at locations throughout the state. The commission may conduct its meetings through teleconferences or other similar means.
(4) Members of the task force are entitled to receive reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061.

(5) The commission shall investigate system failures in the Parkland shooting and prior mass violence incidents and develop recommendations for system improvements. At a minimum, the commission shall analyze evidence from the Parkland shooting and other mass violence incidents in this state and other states to:

(a) Determine the extent to which failures in communications or coordination contributed to an inability to prevent deaths and injuries;

(b) Identify available state and local tools and resources, such as the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Fusion Center or the Judicial Inquiry System, or other state or local systems and recommend ways such resources may be used more effectively to identify risks and threats; and

(c) Recommend changes in procedures or policies necessary to enhance communication among schools, law enforcement, and social service agencies.

(6) Florida Department of Law Enforcement staff, as assigned by the chair, shall assist the commission in performing its duties. The commission shall consider reports issued by other governmental and nongovernmental entities, to the extent such reports are available, in developing its recommendations.

(7) The commission shall complete its work within 1 year after the date it convenes and submit its recommendations to the Governor, the Cabinet, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The commission may submit all or part of its recommendations at any time during the
year, but a final report summarizing its recommendations must be submitted at the completion of its work.

Section 3. Section 1000.051, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1000.051 School safety and security.—
(1) Pursuant to the authority granted pursuant to s. 1000.01, the Legislature intends that the provisions of the Florida K-20 Education Code be liberally construed by the State Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education, district school boards, district superintendents, and law enforcement agencies to the end that student discipline and school safety policy objectives may be effective.

(2) It is the intent of the Legislature, notwithstanding any other provision of the Florida K-20 Education Code and rules adopted pursuant thereto, with the exception of applicable public records exemption provisions authorized by law pertaining to exempt, or confidential and exempt, information, that school district and law enforcement personnel be authorized to take necessary actions to ensure the fundamental protection and safety of public school students, personnel, and visitors.

Section 4. Section 1001.217, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1001.217 Office of Safe Schools.—There is created within the Department of Education the Office of Safe Schools, as required under s. 20.15, which shall be administered by an executive director.

(1) The office shall be fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education, but must cooperate and coordinate with the Board of Governors of the State University System,
public and nonpublic postsecondary institutions, school districts, public and nonpublic schools, state and local agencies, community organizations, and other organizations and persons, as directed by the commissioner.

(2) The purpose of the office is to serve as the state education agency’s primary coordinating division assigned to promote and support safe-learning environments by addressing issues of student safety and academic success at the state, district, and school levels. In performing these functions, the office shall, at a minimum:

(a) Function as the state’s primary contact for the coordination of activities, information, and reporting related to the implementation of the student discipline and school safety requirements of subpart I.C of chapter 1006 pertaining to public K-12 education support for learning and student services, as well as other requirements of law pertaining to school safety partnerships and responsibilities, as assigned by the commissioner.

(b) Function as the state contact and state education agency coordination office for school district safety specialists, as assigned pursuant to s. 1006.12, and primary emergency operations contact staff assigned by Florida College System institutions, state universities, and other entities identified by the commissioner.

(c) Coordinate with state and local agencies, school district personnel, and safety and security experts to establish safe school and security standards, review school safety and security plans, establish guidelines regarding school district appointments to and functions of public school threat assessment
teams and district school safety specialists, and to update risk assessment procedures, as appropriate.

(d) Develop and implement a training program for district school safety specialists designated or appointed by a district school board pursuant to s. 1006.07(8). Training program elements must include, but need not be limited to, school safety specialist participation in active shooter situation training conducted pursuant to s. 1006.07(4)(b), campus tours performed pursuant to s. 1006.07(7), program activities of the Public School Emergency Response Learning System Program established pursuant to s. 1006.149, and training associated with the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool provided pursuant to s. 1006.1493.

Section 5. Subsection (3) is added to section 1002.221, Florida Statutes, to read:

1002.221 K-12 education records; public records exemption.—

(3) This section does not limit the application of exemptions from public records requirements for security system plans and public security systems, including security footage, or other information that would relate to or reveal the location or capabilities of such systems, provided under ss. 119.071(3)(a) and 281.301.

Section 6. Subsection (4) is added to section 1002.225, Florida Statutes, to read:

1002.225 Education records of students in public postsecondary educational institutions; penalty.—

(4) This section does not limit the application of exemptions from public records requirements for security system plans and public security systems, including security footage,
Section 7. Section 1006.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1006.04 Educational multiagency services for students with severe emotional disturbance.—

(1)(a) The Legislature recognizes that an intensive, integrated educational program, a continuum of mental health treatment services and, when needed, residential services are necessary to enable students with severe emotional disturbance to develop appropriate behaviors and demonstrate academic and career education skills. The small incidence of severe emotional disturbance in the total school population requires multiagency programs to provide access to appropriate services for all students with severe emotional disturbance. District school boards should provide educational programs, and state departments and agencies administering children’s mental health funds should provide mental health treatment and residential services when needed, forming a multiagency network to provide support for students with severe emotional disturbance. To facilitate solutions to these issues, the Multiagency Service Network for Students with Severe Emotional Disturbance (SEDNET) is established as a function of the department in partnership with other state, regional, and local partners as a statewide network of regional projects comprised of major child-serving agencies, community-based service providers, and students and their families.

(2) Under the leadership and guidance of the department,
the fundamental goal of SEDNET and its partners shall be to facilitate the process of cross system collaboration and inclusion of families as full partners. At a minimum, SEDNET shall:

(a) Focus on developing interagency collaboration and sustaining partnerships among professionals and families in the education, mental health, substance abuse, child welfare, and juvenile justice systems serving children and youth with, and at risk of, emotional and behavioral disabilities.

(b) Provide technical assistance and support in building service capacity within regional areas and collaborate in related state level activities impacting system of care.

(c) Serve as a collaborative resource for school districts, agencies, and families working to promote positive educational and community-based outcomes for children.

(3)(b) The program goals for each component of SEDNET the multiagency network are to enable students with severe emotional disturbance to learn appropriate behaviors, reduce dependency, and fully participate in all aspects of school and community living; to develop individual programs for students with severe emotional disturbance, including necessary educational, residential, and mental health treatment services; to provide programs and services as close as possible to the student’s home in the least restrictive manner consistent with the student’s needs; and to integrate a wide range of services necessary to support students with severe emotional disturbance and their families.

(4)(2) The Legislature may provide funding for the department to may award grants to district school boards for
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statewide planning and development of SEDNET the multiagency network for students with severe emotional disturbance. The educational services shall be provided in a manner consistent with the requirements of ss. 402.22 and 1003.57.

(5)(3) State departments and agencies may use appropriate funds for SEDNET the multiagency network for students with severe emotional disturbance.

Section 8. Section 1006.05, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1006.05 Mental health assistance allocation specifications.—Pursuant to s. 1011.62(17), the mental health assistance allocation is created to provide supplemental funding to assist school districts and charter schools in establishing or expanding comprehensive mental health programs that increase awareness of mental health issues among children and school-age youth; to train educators and other school staff in detecting and responding to mental health issues; and to connect children, youth, and families who may experience behavioral or mental health issues with appropriate services.

(1) Funding provided pursuant to s. 1011.62(16) shall be allocated in accordance with the following:

(a) Before the distribution of the allocation:

1. The district must annually develop and submit a detailed plan outlining the local program and planned expenditures to the district school board for approval.

2. A charter school must annually develop and submit a detailed plan outlining the local program and planned expenditures of the funds in the plan to its governing body for approval. After the plan is approved by the governing body, it
must be provided to its school district for submission to the commissioner.

(b) The plans required under paragraph (a) must include, at a minimum, the elements in subparagraphs 1., 2., and 3., and the districts and charter schools are strongly encouraged to include in their respective plans the elements specified in subparagraphs 4., 5., and 6., as follows:

1. A contract or a memorandum of understanding with at least one local nationally accredited community behavioral health provider or a provider 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, trauma-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;

2. Training opportunities in Mental Health First Aid or other similar nationally recognized evidence-based training programs for all school personnel who have contact with students. The training must cover risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for providing assistance to individuals in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and the use of referral mechanisms that effectively link individuals to appropriate treatment and intervention services in the school and in the community. Topics covered should include depression and mood disorders, anxiety disorders, trauma, psychosis, substance use disorders, and
suicide prevention;

3. A mental health crisis intervention strategy that provides for prompt resolution of identified, immediate threats within district schools, including Baker Act referrals and notification of law enforcement personnel, as appropriate;

4. Programs to assist students in dealing with anxiety, depression, bullying, trauma, and violence;

5. Strategies or programs to reduce the likelihood of at-risk students developing social, emotional, or behavioral health problems; suicidal tendencies; or substance use disorders; and

6. Strategies to improve the early identification of social, emotional, or behavioral problems or substance use disorders and to improve the provision of early intervention services.

(c) The districts shall submit approved plans to the commissioner by August 1 of each year.

(2) Beginning September 30, 2019, and by each September 30 thereafter, each entity that receives an allocation under this section and s. 1011.62(16) shall submit to the commissioner, in a format prescribed by the department, a final report on its program outcomes and its expenditures for each element of the program. At a minimum, the report must include the number of each of the following:

(a) Students who receive screenings or assessments.
(b) Students who are referred for services or assistance.
(c) Students who receive services or assistance.
(d) Parents or guardians notified.
(e) School personnel who are trained to engage in the services, techniques, strategies, or programs identified in the
Section 9. Subsections (4) and (6) of section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsections (7) and (8) are added to that section, to read:

1006.07 District school board duties relating to student discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the attendance and control of students at school, and for proper attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the welfare of students, including:

(4) EMERGENCY DRILLS; EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.—

(a) Formulate and prescribe policies and procedures for emergency drills and for actual emergencies, including, but not limited to, fires, natural disasters, hostage and active shooter situations, and bomb threats, for all the public schools of the district which comprise grades K-12. District school board policies shall include commonly used alarm system responses for specific types of emergencies and verification by each school that drills have been provided as required by law and fire protection codes. The emergency response agency that is responsible for notifying the school district for each type of emergency must be listed in the district’s emergency response policy.

(b) Establish model emergency management and emergency preparedness procedures, including emergency notification procedures pursuant to paragraph (a), for the following life-threatening emergencies:

1. Weapon-use, hostage, and active shooter situations.

The active shooter situation training for each school must
engage the participation of the district school safety specialist, threat assessment team members, faculty, staff, and students and must be conducted by the law enforcement agency or agencies that are designated as first responders to the school’s campus.

2. Hazardous materials or toxic chemical spills.
3. Weather emergencies, including hurricanes, tornadoes, and severe storms.
4. Exposure as a result of a manmade emergency.

(6) SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES.—Each school district shall:

(a) Designate a threat assessment team, in accordance with guidelines established by the Office of Safe Schools, at each school in the district. The threat assessment team shall operate under the direction of the district school safety specialist.

(b) Conduct security risk assessments in accordance with s. 1006.1493 at each public school and conduct a self-assessment of the school districts’ current safety and security practices using a format prescribed by the department. Based on these self-assessment findings, the district school superintendent shall provide recommendations to the district school board which identify strategies and activities that the district school board should implement in order to improve school safety and security. Annually each district school board must receive such findings and the superintendent’s recommendations the self-assessment results at a publicly noticed district school board meeting to provide the public an opportunity to hear the
district school board members discuss and take action on the report findings and recommendations. Each district school superintendent shall report such findings the self-assessment results and school board action to the commissioner within 30 days after the district school board meeting.

(c) Develop a plan, in a format prescribed by the department, which includes a secure, single point of entry onto school grounds.

(7) SAFETY IN CONSTRUCTION PLANNING.—A district school board must allow the law enforcement agency or agencies that are designated as first responders to the district’s campus and school’s campuses to tour such campuses once every 3 years. Any changes related to school safety and emergency issues recommended by a law enforcement agency based on a campus tour must be documented by the district school board.

(8) DISTRICT SCHOOL SAFETY SPECIALIST.—A district school board shall designate or appoint a district school safety specialist to serve at the direction of the superintendent as the district’s primary point of public contact regarding the district’s coordination, communication, and implementation of policies, procedures, responsibilities, and reporting related to district and public school safety functions. The school safety specialist shall do all of the following:

(a) Coordinate with the Office of Safe Schools, established pursuant to s. 1001.217.

(b) Facilitate the collection and dissemination of information among and between the school district, school personnel, students and their families, state and local law enforcement agencies, community health entities, and other state
and community partners.

(c) Maintain records and reports and facilitate the implementation of policies regarding the respective duties and responsibilities of the school districts, superintendents, and principals and reporting regarding student discipline and school safety requirements.

(d) Oversee and coordinate threat assessment teams and provide a coordinated approach to evaluating and responding to students who pose, or appear to pose, a credible potential threat of violence or harm to themselves or others.

(e) Perform other responsibilities assigned by the superintendent and requested by the Office of Safe Schools to facilitate and coordinate the effective implementation of student discipline and school safety requirements.

Section 10. Section 1006.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1006.12 Safe-school resource officers at each public school and school safety officers. For the protection and safety of school personnel, property, students, and visitors, each district school board and school district superintendent shall cooperate with law enforcement agencies to establish or assign one or more safe-school officers at each school facility within the district, by implementing any combination of the following options:

(1) District school boards may establish school resource officer programs, through a cooperative agreement with law enforcement agencies or in accordance with subsection (2).

(a) School resource officers shall undergo criminal background checks, drug testing, and a psychological evaluation
and be certified law enforcement officers, as defined in s. 943.10(1), who are employed by a law enforcement agency as defined in s. 943.10(4). The powers and duties of a law enforcement officer shall continue throughout the employee’s tenure as a school resource officer. 

(b) School resource officers shall abide by district school board policies and shall consult with and coordinate activities through the school principal, but shall be responsible to the law enforcement agency in all matters relating to employment, subject to agreements between a district school board and a law enforcement agency. Activities conducted by the school resource officer which are part of the regular instructional program of the school shall be under the direction of the school principal.

(2) Commission one or more school safety officers for the protection and safety of school personnel, property, and students within the school district. The district school superintendent may recommend, and the district school board may appoint, one or more school safety officers.

(a) School safety officers shall undergo criminal background checks, drug testing, and a psychological evaluation and be law enforcement officers, as defined in s. 943.10(1), certified under the provisions of chapter 943 and employed by either a law enforcement agency or by the district school board. If the officer is employed by the district school board, the district school board is the employing agency for purposes of chapter 943, and must comply with the provisions of that chapter.

(b) A district school board may commission one or more school safety officers for the protection and safety of school
personnel, property, and students within the school district.

The district school superintendent may recommend and the
district school board may appoint one or more school safety
officers.

(b) A school safety officer has and shall exercise the
government 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 on such property under the same
conditions that deputy sheriffs are authorized to make arrests.

A school safety officer has the authority to carry weapons when
performing his or her official duties.

(c) A district school board may enter into mutual aid
agreements with one or more law enforcement agencies as provided
in chapter 23. A school safety officer’s salary may be paid
jointly by the district school board and the law enforcement
agency, as mutually agreed to.

(3) Participate in the Florida Sheriff’s Marshal Program,
established pursuant to s. 1006.1491. Upon a participant’s
completion of the program, the district school board shall
designate a special deputy sheriff, as appointed by the sheriff
as a law enforcement officer certified under chapter 943,
pursuant to s. 30.072(2).

Section 11. Section 1006.149, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

1006.149 Public School Emergency Response Learning System
Program.—

(1) The Public School Emergency Response Learning System
Program is established to assist school personnel in preparing
for and responding to active emergency situations and to

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.
implement local notification systems for all Florida public schools, with the ultimate goal of preventing tragedy and the loss of life through proactive strategies.

(2) The program is created within the department and shall be administered by the Office of Safe Schools, established pursuant to s. 1001.217. Through the program, local law enforcement agencies shall partner with participating public preschools, public child care providers, or public school districts and schools. Training, notifications, and resources must be available for school personnel and students and their families through, at minimum, the following mechanisms:

(a) Activities and direct training to mitigate risk and save lives in emergency situations, such as lockdown, bomb threat, active shooter, and other emergency situations.

(b) Vital local notification systems implemented to alert schools of imminent danger.

(c) Other resources provided in conjunction with the training including, but not limited to, an emergency plan flip chart, communication cards, instructional resources, activity books for children and teachers, and certificates of training and completion.

(3) Each program participant must develop a preemptive plan of action that includes multiple options for addressing various situations based on the form of danger present and the unique needs and circumstances of each school and its faculty, staff, students, and visitors.

(4) A school district must include in its emergency notification procedures established pursuant to s. 1006.07 any program participant who notifies the district of his or her
desire to participate.

(5) Funding for program activities may be provided by the Legislature to implement this section.

Section 12. Section 1006.1491, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1006.1491 Florida Sheriff’s Marshal Program.—The Florida Sheriff’s Marshal Program is created within the department as a voluntary program to assist school districts and public schools in enhancing the safety and security of students, faculty, staff, and visitors to Florida’s public schools and campuses. The program is administered by the Office of Safe Schools, established pursuant to s. 1001.217.

(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program is to provide comprehensive firearm safety and proficiency training for selected faculty and staff strategically focused on providing security on campus during an active assailant incident. Public school faculty and staff who voluntarily participate in and complete the program, as recommended by the school district, are designated as special deputy sheriffs with all rights, responsibilities, and obligations in carrying concealed firearms on campus, as authorized pursuant to s. 30.09.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Active assailant incident” means a situation in which an armed assailant is posing an immediate deadly threat to persons on the premises or campus of a public school.

(b) “Campus” means a school, as defined in s. 1003.01(2), and facilities and school plants operated and controlled by a public school district in accordance with s. 1003.02.

(c) “Partnership agreement” means a jointly-approved
contract between the sheriff operating the program and the superintendent of a participating school district sponsor.

(d) “Program” means a Florida Sheriff’s Marshal Program as established and administered by a sheriff in accordance with this section.

(e) “Sheriff” means the county sheriff constitutional officer elected or appointed in accordance with chapter 30.

(f) “Sheriff’s marshal” means a faculty or staff member who is recommended and sponsored by a school district and has been successfully screened and approved by the sheriff to participate in a program.

(g) “Special deputy sheriff” means a program participant who has successfully completed the program and who is appointed as a law enforcement officer in the same manner as a deputy sheriff as provided in s. 30.072(2) and certified under chapter 943.

(3) PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.—At a minimum, program eligibility and participation requirements must include:

(a) A school district may sponsor and recommend to the sheriff public school faculty and staff members as candidates for voluntary participation in the program. The sheriff shall establish timelines and requirements for participation through a partnership agreement with the sponsoring school district superintendent. To be eligible for consideration and recommendation, a candidate must be licensed in accordance with s. 790.06.

(b) After screening a candidate, including performing criminal background checks, drug testing, and a psychological evaluation, the sheriff may approve a candidate to participate
in the program as a sheriff’s marshal.

(c) Upon successful completion of the program, a sheriff’s marshal may be appointed by the sheriff as a special deputy sheriff for the limited purpose of responding to an active assailant incident on a campus of his or her school district during an active assailant incident.

(4) SPECIAL DEPUTY SHERIFF.—

(a) At a minimum, the partnership agreement must provide that a special deputy sheriff:

1. Must participate in and complete the program’s professional training requirements as a precondition to meeting the legal requirements of chapter 30 to be eligible to carry a concealed firearm on a campus of his or her sponsoring school district.

2. May not act in any law enforcement capacity outside of an active assailant incident on a school district campus and does not have any authority in a law enforcement capacity off campus in any way, except as otherwise expressly authorized by law.

3. May carry concealed, approved firearms on campus. The firearms must be specifically purchased and issued for the sole purpose of the program. Only concealed carry safety holsters and firearms approved by the sheriff may be used under the program.

4. Must successfully complete training with the sheriff’s office before his or her appointment as a special deputy sheriff, including meeting the requirements of this section.

(b) The appointment of a person as a special deputy sheriff does not entitle the person to the special risk category that applies to law enforcement officers pursuant to s. 121.0515.
(5) TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION.—All training must be conducted by Criminal Justice Standards Training Commission-certified instructors.

(a) Required instruction must include 132 total hours of comprehensive firearm safety and proficiency training in the following topics:

1. Firearms: 80-hour block of instruction. The firearms instruction must be based on the CJSTC Law Enforcement Academy training model and must be enhanced to include 10 percent to 20 percent more rounds fired by each program participant beyond the minimum average of approximately 1,000 training rounds associated with academy training. Program participants must achieve an 85 percent pass rate on the firearms training.

2. Firearms precision pistol: 16-hour block of instruction.


4. Active shooter or assailant: 8-hour block of instruction.

5. Defensive tactics: 4-hour block of instruction.

6. Legal or high liability: 20-hour block of instruction.

(b) Program participants may complete an optional, 16-hour precision pistol course as additional training.

(c) Ongoing and annual proficiency retraining must be conducted by the sheriff, as specified in the agreement.

(6) PARTICIPATION DENIAL OR TERMINATION.—The sheriff or the district superintendent may deny or terminate a sheriff’s marshal or special deputy sheriff’s participation in the program for any reason, including, but not limited to, any of the following circumstances:
(a) An arrest or filing of criminal charges against a
program participant by a law enforcement agency.

(b) The service of process on the program participant as
the respondent of an injunction for protection.

(c) The involuntarily placement of the program participant
in a treatment facility for a mental health examination under
The Baker Act.

(d) A violation of sheriff PCSO General Orders by the
program participant.

(e) A violation of the school district’s code of conduct or
employee handbook or policy by the program participant.

(7) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(a) The sheriff shall maintain documentation of weapon and
equipment inspections, as well as the training, certification,
inspection, and qualification records of each program
participant.

(b) Each program participant must be distinctly and
visually identifiable to responding law enforcement officers,
faculty, staff, and students, in the case of any active
assailant incident on a sponsoring school district’s campus.

(c) Each sheriff’s marshal must execute a volunteer
agreement with the sheriff’s office outlining duties and
responsibilities.

(d) A sponsoring school district must conduct awareness
training about the program for all school district faculty and
staff members.

(e) Specific implementation requirements, responsibilities,
and other aspects of implementation must be specified in a
partnership agreement.
(8) FUNDING.—The costs of program participation must be established in the partnership agreement. Funding may be provided by the Legislature to support school district and sheriff office administration, sponsorship, participation, and implementation of this section.

Section 13. Section 1006.1493, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1006.1493 Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool.—

(1) The department shall contract with a security consulting firm that specializes in the development of risk assessment software solutions and has experience in conducting security assessments of public facilities to develop, update, and implement a risk assessment tool, which shall be known as the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT). The FSSAT must be used by school officials at each school district and public school site in the state in conducting security assessments for use by school officials at each school district and public school site in the state.

(2) The FSSAT must help school officials identify threats, vulnerabilities, and appropriate safety controls for the schools that they supervise, pursuant to the security risk assessment requirements of s. 1006.07(6).

(a) At minimum, the FSSAT must address all of the following components:

1. School emergency and crisis preparedness planning;
2. Security, crime, and violence prevention policies and procedures;
3. Physical security measures;
4. Professional development training needs;
5. An examination of support service roles in school safety, security, and emergency planning;
6. School security and school police staffing, operational practices, and related services;
7. School and community collaboration on school safety; and
8. A return on investment analysis of the recommended physical security controls.

(b) The department shall require by contract that the security consulting firm:
1. Generate written automated reports on assessment findings for review by the department and school and district officials;
2. Provide training to the department and school officials in the use of the FSSAT and other areas of importance identified by the department; and
3. Advise in the development and implementation of templates, formats, guidance, and other resources necessary to facilitate the implementation of this section at state, district, school, and local levels.

(3) By December 1, 2018, and annually by that date thereafter, the department must report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the status of implementation across school districts and schools. The report must include a summary the positive school safety measures in place at the time of the assessment and any recommendations for policy changes or funding needed to facilitate continued school safety planning, improvement, and response at the state, district, or school levels.
In accordance with ss. 119.071(3)(a) and 281.301, data and information related to security risk assessments administered pursuant to this section and s. 1006.07(6) and the security information contained in the annual report required pursuant to subsection (3) are confidential and exempt from public records requirements.

Section 14. Subsections (16) and (17) of section 1011.62, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (17) and (18), respectively, subsections (14) and (15) are amended, and a new subsection (16) is added to that section, to read:

1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each district for operation of schools is not determined in the annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as follows:

(14) QUALITY ASSURANCE GUARANTEE.—The Legislature may annually in the General Appropriations Act determine a percentage increase in funds per K-12 unweighted FTE as a minimum guarantee to each school district. The guarantee shall be calculated from prior year base funding per unweighted FTE student which shall include the adjusted FTE dollars as provided in subsection (17), quality guarantee funds, and actual nonvoted discretionary local effort from taxes. From the base funding per unweighted FTE, the increase shall be calculated for the current year. The current year funds from which the guarantee shall be determined shall include the adjusted FTE dollars as provided in subsection (17) and potential nonvoted discretionary local effort from taxes. A comparison of
current year funds per unweighted FTE to prior year funds per unweighted FTE shall be computed. For those school districts which have less than the legislatively assigned percentage increase, funds shall be provided to guarantee the assigned percentage increase in funds per unweighted FTE student. Should appropriated funds be less than the sum of this calculated amount for all districts, the commissioner shall prorate each district’s allocation. This provision shall be implemented to the extent specifically funded.

(15) SAFE SCHOOLS ALLOCATION.—A safe schools allocation is created to provide funding to assist school districts in their compliance with subpart I.C of chapter 1006 ss. 1006.07–1006.148, with priority given to satisfying the requirement of establishing or assigning at least one safe-school officer at each school facility within the district school resource officer program pursuant to s. 1006.12. Each school district shall receive a minimum safe schools allocation in an amount provided in the General Appropriations Act. Of the remaining balance of the safe schools allocation, two-thirds shall be allocated to school districts based on the most recent official Florida Crime Index provided by the Department of Law Enforcement and one-third shall be allocated based on each school district’s proportionate share of the state’s total unweighted full-time equivalent student enrollment.

(16) MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE ALLOCATION.—The mental health assistance allocation is created to provide funding to assist school districts and charter schools in their compliance with the requirements and specifications established in s. 1006.05. These funds must be allocated annually in the General
Appropriations Act to each eligible school district and developmental research school based on each entity’s proportionate share of Florida Education Finance Program base funding, in accordance with s. 1006.05. The district funding allocation must include a minimum amount, as provided in the General Appropriations Act. Eligible charter schools are entitled to a proportionate share of district funding for the program. The allocated funds may not supplant funds that are provided for this purpose from other operating funds and may not be used to increase salaries or provide bonuses, except for personnel hired to implement the plans required by s. 1006.05. School districts and schools must maximize third-party funding from Medicaid and private insurance when appropriate.

Section 15. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.