A bill to be entitled
An act relating to student elopement; creating s. 1003.211, F.S.; providing definitions; requiring public schools to create a Staff Assistance for Emergencies (SAFE) Team and a school elopement plan; providing for membership and responsibilities of the team; providing requirements for the plan; requiring the team to create student-specific elopement quick reference guides for certain students; providing requirements for the guides; requiring public schools to annually submit their plans to the district school board; authorizing the State Board of Education to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1003.211, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1003.211 School elopement plans.—
(1) For purposes of this section, the term:
   (a) "Disability" means, for a student in kindergarten through grade 12, autism spectrum disorder, as defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, published by the American Psychiatric Association, or an intellectual disability, as defined in s. 393.063.
(b) "Elopement" means a student with disabilities wanders away, walks away, runs away, escapes, or otherwise leaves the supervision of school staff or leaves school grounds unsupervised or unnoticed before the end of his or her scheduled school day.

(2) To ensure the safety of students with disabilities at risk of elopement, each public school shall create a School Staff Assistance for Emergencies (SAFE) Team and a school elopement plan.

(3) The school principal and assistant principal shall serve on the SAFE Team and the school principal shall appoint at least five other members to serve on the team. The SAFE Team shall:

(a) Create and annually update the school elopement plan and respond to all elopements.

(b) Provide training to all school personnel to familiarize such personnel with the school elopement plan and all necessary procedures, including, but not limited to, the search grid established pursuant to paragraph (4)(a) and any responsibilities of such personnel if an elopement occurs.

(4) In developing the school elopement plan, the SAFE Team must include all of the following:

(a) A search grid of the school campus and surrounding areas. The search grid must include all bodies of water, intersections, train tracks and stations, parks, playgrounds,
and other features that may present a greater risk for students with disabilities at risk of elopement.

(b) Procedures for school personnel to notify school administrators if a student with disabilities elopes and procedures for school personnel to begin searching for such student. Such procedures must specify that upon notification of an elopement, the SAFE Team must notify the school resource officer or school safety officer and, if such officer deems necessary, local law enforcement. If a school resource officer or school safety officer is unavailable, the SAFE Team must immediately notify local law enforcement.

(c) Procedures for a coordinated response to an elopement, including, but not limited to, announcing a Code Gray, which will alert all school personnel to the elopement, and contacting the student's parent.

(d) The names, positions, and contact information for all members of the SAFE Team.

(e) Other information or procedures that the SAFE Team, district school board, or State Board of Education deems necessary.

(5)(a) If a student with disabilities is prone to elopement, the SAFE Team, in coordination with the student's parent, must create a student-specific elopement quick reference guide. Such elopement quick reference guide must include all of the following:
1. The student's identifying information.
2. A current photograph of the student.
3. The student's level of communication.
4. A list of the student's interests, behaviors, preferences, and aversions.
5. Any health considerations for the student.
6. A list of any GPS technology that could be used to help locate the student.
7. A list of possible locations where the student may go within the search grid.

(b) The SAFE Team must distribute a student's elopement quick reference guide to the student's parent and all relevant school personnel.
(6) Each public school must annually provide its elopement plan to the district school board.
(7) The state board may adopt rules to administer this section.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.