

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to school safety; amending s. 30.15,  
3           F.S.; requiring sheriffs to assist public  
4           postsecondary educational institutions in implementing  
5           guardian programs under certain provisions;  
6           authorizing public postsecondary educational  
7           institutions to participate in the school guardian  
8           program; requiring public postsecondary educational  
9           institutions to provide a specified notice to the  
10          sheriff; amending s. 790.115, F.S.; creating the  
11          offense of discharging a weapon or firearm within  
12          1,000 feet of a school; providing an exception;  
13          providing that a person arrested for certain offenses  
14          must be held in custody until brought before the court  
15          for admittance to bail; amending s. 921.0022, F.S.;  
16          ranking an offense created by the act on the offense  
17          severity ranking chart of the Criminal Punishment  
18          Code; amending s. 943.082, F.S.; requiring that  
19          postsecondary institutions be made aware of the mobile  
20          suspicious activity reporting tool in a specified  
21          manner; requiring public postsecondary educational  
22          institutions to promote the use of such tool; amending  
23          s. 1003.25, F.S.; requiring specified educational  
24          records for certain students to be transferred to a  
25          Florida College System institution or state university

26 | under certain circumstances; requiring the State Board  
27 | of Education and the Board of Governors to adopt rules  
28 | and regulations, respectively; amending s. 1006.07,  
29 | F.S.; requiring certain trainings to include specified  
30 | information relating to school safety; creating s.  
31 | 1006.601, F.S.; defining the term "public  
32 | postsecondary educational institution"; authorizing  
33 | such institutions to participate in certain programs;  
34 | authorizing such institutions to appoint certified  
35 | school guardians; authorizing specified persons to  
36 | serve as school guardians; requiring such institutions  
37 | to adopt specified emergency response plans; requiring  
38 | such institutions to provide specified training, post  
39 | specified information, and adopt threat management  
40 | processes; authorizing the State Board of Education  
41 | and the Board of Governors to adopt rules and  
42 | regulations, respectively; reenacting ss.  
43 | 402.305(19)(a), 843.08, 943.03(16), 1001.212(1), (4),  
44 | and (10), and 1006.12(3)(a), (4)(a), and (7), F.S.,  
45 | relating to licensing standards, child care  
46 | facilities, false personation, Department of Law  
47 | Enforcement, Office of Safe Schools, and safe-school  
48 | officers at each public school, respectively;  
49 | providing effective dates.

50

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

52

53 **Section 1. Paragraph (k) of subsection (1) of section**  
 54 **30.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

55 30.15 Powers, duties, and obligations.—

56 (1) Sheriffs, in their respective counties, in person or  
 57 by deputy, shall:

58 (k) Assist district school boards and charter school  
 59 governing boards in complying with, or private schools or child  
 60 care facilities, as defined in s. 402.302, in exercising options  
 61 in, s. 1006.12. A sheriff must also assist public postsecondary  
 62 educational institutions, as described in s. 1000.04(3), in  
 63 implementing a guardian program under s. 1006.601. A sheriff  
 64 shall, at a minimum, provide access to a Chris Hixon, Coach  
 65 Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to aid in  
 66 the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on  
 67 school premises, as required under this paragraph. Persons  
 68 certified as school guardians pursuant to this paragraph have no  
 69 authority to act in any law enforcement capacity except to the  
 70 extent necessary to prevent or abate an active assailant  
 71 incident.

72 1.a. If a local school board has voted by a majority to  
 73 implement a guardian program or has contracted for the use of  
 74 school security guards to satisfy the requirements of s.  
 75 1006.12, the sheriff in that county must establish a guardian

76 program to provide training for school guardians or school  
77 security guards, pursuant to subparagraph 2., to school  
78 district, charter school, public postsecondary educational  
79 institution, private school, child care facility, or security  
80 agency employees, either directly or through a contract with  
81 another sheriff's office that has established a guardian  
82 program. The security agency employing a school security guard  
83 is responsible for all training and screening-related costs for  
84 a school security guard, but such charges may not exceed the  
85 actual cost incurred by the sheriff to provide the training.

86 b. A public postsecondary educational institution or  
87 charter school governing board in a school district that has not  
88 voted, or has declined, to implement a guardian program may  
89 request the sheriff in the county to establish a guardian  
90 program for the purpose of training the public postsecondary  
91 educational institution or charter school employees or school  
92 security guards consistent with the requirements of subparagraph  
93 2. If the county sheriff denies the request, the public  
94 postsecondary educational institution or charter school  
95 governing board may contract with a sheriff that has established  
96 a guardian program to provide such training. The charter school  
97 governing board must notify the superintendent and the sheriff  
98 in the charter school's county of the contract prior to its  
99 execution. The public postsecondary educational institution must  
100 notify the sheriff in the public postsecondary educational

101 institution's county of the contract prior to its execution. The  
102 security agency employing a school security guard is responsible  
103 for all training and screening-related costs for a school  
104 security guard, but such charges may not exceed the actual cost  
105 incurred by the sheriff to provide the training.

106 c. A private school or child care facility in a school  
107 district that has not voted, or has declined, to implement a  
108 guardian program may request that the sheriff in the county of  
109 the private school or child care facility establish a guardian  
110 program for the purpose of training private school employees,  
111 child care facility employees, or school security guards. If the  
112 county sheriff denies the request, the private school or child  
113 care facility may contract with a sheriff from another county  
114 who has established a guardian program under subparagraph 2. to  
115 provide such training. The private school or child care facility  
116 must notify the sheriff in the private school's or child care  
117 facility's county of the contract with a sheriff from another  
118 county before its execution. The private school, child care  
119 facility, or security agency is responsible for all training and  
120 screening-related costs for a school guardian program. The  
121 sheriff providing such training must ensure that any moneys paid  
122 by a private school, child care facility, or security agency are  
123 not commingled with any funds provided by the state to the  
124 sheriff as reimbursement for screening-related and training-  
125 related costs of any school district or charter school employee.

126           d. The training program required in sub-subparagraph 2.b.  
127 is a standardized statewide curriculum, and each sheriff  
128 providing such training shall adhere to the course of  
129 instruction specified in that sub-subparagraph. This  
130 subparagraph does not prohibit a sheriff from providing  
131 additional training. A school guardian or school security guard  
132 who has completed the training program required in sub-  
133 subparagraph 2.b. may not be required to attend another  
134 sheriff's training program pursuant to that sub-subparagraph  
135 unless there has been at least a 1-year break in his or her  
136 appointment as a guardian or employment by a security agency as  
137 a school security guard in a school.

138           e. The sheriff conducting the training pursuant to  
139 subparagraph 2. for school district, ~~and~~ charter school, or  
140 public postsecondary educational institution employees will be  
141 reimbursed for screening-related and training-related costs and  
142 for providing a one-time stipend of \$500 to each school guardian  
143 who participates in the school guardian program.

144           f. The sheriff may waive the training and screening-  
145 related costs for a private school or child care facility for a  
146 school guardian program. Funds provided pursuant to sub-  
147 subparagraph e. may not be used to subsidize any costs that have  
148 been waived by the sheriff. The sheriff may not waive the  
149 training and screening-related costs required to be paid by a  
150 security agency for initial training or ongoing training of a

151 school security guard.

152 g. A person who is certified and in good standing under  
153 the Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission,  
154 who meets the qualifications established in s. 943.13, and who  
155 is otherwise qualified for the position of a school guardian or  
156 school security guard may be certified as a school guardian or  
157 school security guard by the sheriff without completing the  
158 training requirements of sub-subparagraph 2.b. However, a person  
159 certified as a school guardian or school security guard under  
160 this sub-subparagraph must meet the requirements of sub-  
161 subparagraphs 2.c.-e.

162 2. A sheriff who establishes a program shall consult with  
163 the Department of Law Enforcement on programmatic guiding  
164 principles, practices, and resources, and shall certify as  
165 school guardians, without the power of arrest, school employees,  
166 as specified in s. 1006.12(3), or shall certify as school  
167 security guards those persons employed by a security agency who  
168 meet the criteria specified in s. 1006.12(4), and who:

169 a. Hold a valid license issued under s. 790.06 or are  
170 otherwise eligible to possess or carry a concealed firearm under  
171 chapter 790.

172 b. After satisfying the requirements of s. 1006.12(7),  
173 complete a 144-hour training program, consisting of 12 hours of  
174 training to improve the school guardian's knowledge and skills  
175 necessary to respond to and de-escalate incidents on school

176 premises and 132 total hours of comprehensive firearm safety and  
177 proficiency training conducted by Criminal Justice Standards and  
178 Training Commission-certified instructors, which must include:

179 (I) Eighty hours of firearms instruction based on the  
180 Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission's Law  
181 Enforcement Academy training model, which must include at least  
182 10 percent but no more than 20 percent more rounds fired than  
183 associated with academy training. Program participants must  
184 achieve an 85 percent pass rate on the firearms training.

185 (II) Sixteen hours of instruction in precision pistol.

186 (III) Eight hours of discretionary shooting instruction  
187 using state-of-the-art simulator exercises.

188 (IV) Sixteen hours of instruction in active shooter or  
189 assailant scenarios.

190 (V) Eight hours of instruction in defensive tactics.

191 (VI) Four hours of instruction in legal issues.

192 c. Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a  
193 psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the  
194 Department of Law Enforcement and submit the results of the  
195 evaluation to the sheriff's office. The Department of Law  
196 Enforcement is authorized to provide the sheriff's office with  
197 mental health and substance abuse data for compliance with this  
198 paragraph.

199 d. Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent  
200 random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s.



201 112.0455 and the sheriff's office.

202 e. Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon  
203 inspection, and firearm qualification on at least an annual  
204 basis.

205

206 The sheriff who conducts the guardian training or waives the  
207 training requirements for a person under sub-subparagraph 1.g.  
208 shall issue a school guardian certificate to persons who meet  
209 the requirements of this section to the satisfaction of the  
210 sheriff, and shall maintain documentation of weapon and  
211 equipment inspections, as well as the training, certification,  
212 inspection, and qualification records of each school guardian  
213 certified by the sheriff. A person who is certified under this  
214 paragraph may serve as a school guardian under s. 1006.12(3)  
215 only if he or she is appointed by the applicable school district  
216 superintendent, charter school principal, public postsecondary  
217 educational institution president, private school head of  
218 school, or child care facility owner. A sheriff who conducts the  
219 training for a school security guard or waives the training  
220 requirements for a person under sub-subparagraph 1.g. and  
221 determines that the school security guard has met all the  
222 requirements of s. 1006.12(4) shall issue a school security  
223 guard certificate to persons who meet the requirements of this  
224 section to the satisfaction of the sheriff and shall maintain  
225 documentation of weapon and equipment inspections, training,

226 certification, and qualification records for each school  
227 security guard certified by the sheriff.

228 3.a. Within 30 days after issuing a school guardian or  
229 school security guard certificate, the sheriff who issued the  
230 certificate must report to the Department of Law Enforcement the  
231 name, date of birth, and certification date of the school  
232 guardian or school security guard.

233 b. By February 1 and September 1 of each school year, each  
234 school district, charter school, employing security agency,  
235 public postsecondary educational institution, private school,  
236 and child care facility must report in the manner prescribed to  
237 the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth, and  
238 appointment date of each person appointed as a school guardian  
239 or employed as a school security guard. The school district,  
240 charter school, employing security agency, public postsecondary  
241 educational institution, private school, and child care facility  
242 must also report in the manner prescribed to the Department of  
243 Law Enforcement the date each school guardian or school security  
244 guard separates from his or her appointment as a school guardian  
245 or employment as a school security guard in a school.

246 c. The Department of Law Enforcement shall maintain a list  
247 of each person appointed as a school guardian or certified as a  
248 school security guard in the state. The list must include the  
249 name and certification date of each school guardian and school  
250 security guard and the date the person was appointed as a school

251 guardian or certified as a school security guard, including the  
252 name of the school district, charter school, public  
253 postsecondary educational institution, private school, or child  
254 care facility in which the school guardian is appointed, or the  
255 employing security agency of a school security guard, any  
256 information provided pursuant to s. 1006.12(5), and, if  
257 applicable, the date such person separated from his or her  
258 appointment as a school guardian or the last date a school  
259 security guard served in a school as of the last reporting date.  
260 The Department of Law Enforcement shall remove from the list any  
261 person whose training has expired pursuant to sub-subparagraph  
262 1.d.

263 d. Each sheriff shall report on a quarterly basis to the  
264 Department of Law Enforcement the schedule for upcoming school  
265 guardian trainings, to include guardian trainings for school  
266 security guards, including the dates of the training, the  
267 training locations, a contact person to register for the  
268 training, and the class capacity. If no trainings are scheduled,  
269 the sheriff is not required to report to the Department of Law  
270 Enforcement. The Department of Law Enforcement shall publish on  
271 its website a list of the upcoming school guardian trainings.  
272 The Department of Law Enforcement shall update such list  
273 quarterly.

274 e. A sheriff who fails to report the information required  
275 by this subparagraph may not receive reimbursement from the

276 Department of Education for school guardian trainings. Upon the  
277 submission of the required information, a sheriff is deemed  
278 eligible for such funding and is authorized to continue to  
279 receive reimbursement for school guardian training.

280 f. A school district, charter school, public postsecondary  
281 educational institution, private school, child care facility, or  
282 employing security agency that fails to report the information  
283 required by this subparagraph is prohibited from operating a  
284 school guardian program or employing school security guards in  
285 the following school year unless the missing information is  
286 provided.

287 g. By March 1 and October 1 of each school year, the  
288 Department of Law Enforcement shall notify the Department of  
289 Education of any sheriff, school district, charter school,  
290 public postsecondary educational institution, private school, or  
291 child care facility that has not complied with the reporting  
292 requirements of this subparagraph.

293 h. The Department of Law Enforcement may adopt rules to  
294 implement the requirements of this subparagraph, including  
295 requiring additional reporting information only as necessary to  
296 uniquely identify each school guardian and school security guard  
297 reported.

298 **Section 2. Effective October 1, 2026, paragraph (d) of**  
299 **subsection (2) of section 790.115, Florida Statutes, is amended,**  
300 **and subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:**

301           790.115 Possessing or discharging weapons or firearms at a  
 302 school-sponsored event or on school property prohibited;  
 303 penalties; exceptions.—

304           (2)

305           (d) A person commits a felony of the second degree,  
 306 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084,  
 307 if he or she: ~~who~~

308           1. Discharges any weapon or firearm while in violation of  
 309 paragraph (a), unless discharged for lawful defense of himself  
 310 or herself or another or for a lawful purpose; ~~or~~

311           2. Discharges any weapon or firearm within 1,000 feet of a  
 312 school, during school hours or during the time of a sanctioned  
 313 school activity, unless discharged for lawful defense of himself  
 314 or herself or another or for a lawful purpose. This subparagraph  
 315 does not apply to the discharge of a weapon or firearm on  
 316 private real property within 1,000 feet of a school by the owner  
 317 of such property or by a person whose presence on such property  
 318 has been authorized, licensed, or invited by the owner ~~commits a~~  
 319 felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.  
 320 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

321           (4) A person arrested for a violation of paragraph (2) (d)  
 322 must be held in custody until brought before the court for  
 323 admittance to bail in accordance with chapter 903.

324           **Section 3. Effective October 1, 2026, paragraph (f) of**  
 325 **subsection (3) of section 921.0022, Florida Statutes, is amended**

326 **to read:**

327 921.0022 Criminal Punishment Code; offense severity  
328 ranking chart.—

329 (3) OFFENSE SEVERITY RANKING CHART

330 (f) LEVEL 6

331

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
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332

316.027(2)(b)	2nd	Leaving the scene of a crash involving serious bodily injury.
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333

316.193(2)(b)	3rd	Felony DUI, 4th or subsequent conviction.
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334

316.1935(4)(a)	2nd	Aggravated fleeing or eluding.
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335

327.30(5)(a)3.	2nd	Vessel accidents involving serious bodily injury; leaving scene.
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336

400.9935(4)(c)	2nd	Operating a clinic, or offering services requiring licensure, without a license.
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337	499.0051 (2)	2nd	Knowing forgery of transaction history, transaction information, or transaction statement.
338	499.0051 (3)	2nd	Knowing purchase or receipt of prescription drug from unauthorized person.
339	499.0051 (4)	2nd	Knowing sale or transfer of prescription drug to unauthorized person.
340	775.0875 (1)	3rd	Taking firearm from law enforcement officer.
341	784.021 (1) (a)	3rd	Aggravated assault; deadly weapon without intent to kill.
342	784.021 (1) (b)	3rd	Aggravated assault; intent to commit felony.
343	784.041	3rd	Felony battery; domestic battery by strangulation.

344	784.048 (3)	3rd	Aggravated stalking; credible threat.
345	784.048 (5)	3rd	Aggravated stalking of person under 16.
346	784.07 (2) (c)	2nd	Aggravated assault on law enforcement officer.
347	784.074 (1) (b)	2nd	Aggravated assault on sexually violent predators facility staff.
348	784.08 (2) (b)	2nd	Aggravated assault on a person 65 years of age or older.
349	784.081 (2)	2nd	Aggravated assault on specified official or employee.
350	784.082 (2)	2nd	Aggravated assault by detained person on visitor or other detainee.
351	784.083 (2)	2nd	Aggravated assault on code



inspector.

352 787.02 (2) 3rd False imprisonment; restraining  
with purpose other than those  
in s. 787.01.

353 787.025 (2) (a) 3rd Luring or enticing a child.

354 790.115 (2) (d) 2nd Discharging firearm or weapon  
on school property or within  
1,000 feet of a school.

355 790.161 (2) 2nd Make, possess, or throw  
destructive device with intent  
to do bodily harm or damage  
property.

356 790.164 (1) 2nd False report concerning bomb,  
explosive, weapon of mass  
destruction, act of arson or  
violence to state property, or  
use of firearms in violent  
manner.

357 790.19 2nd Shooting or throwing deadly

missiles into dwellings,  
vessels, or vehicles.

358

794.011 (8) (a) 3rd Solicitation of minor to  
participate in sexual activity  
by custodial adult.

359

794.05 (1) 2nd Unlawful sexual activity with  
specified minor.

360

800.04 (5) (d) 3rd Lewd or lascivious molestation;  
victim 12 years of age or older  
but less than 16 years of age;  
offender less than 18 years.

361

800.04 (6) (b) 2nd Lewd or lascivious conduct;  
offender 18 years of age or  
older.

362

806.031 (2) 2nd Arson resulting in great bodily  
harm to firefighter or any  
other person.

363

810.02 (3) (c) 2nd Burglary of occupied structure;  
unarmed; no assault or battery.

364	810.145 (8) (b)	2nd	Digital voyeurism; certain minor victims; 2nd or subsequent offense.
365	812.014 (2) (b) 1.	2nd	Property stolen \$20,000 or more, but less than \$100,000, grand theft in 2nd degree.
366	812.014 (2) (c) 5.	3rd	Grand theft; third degree; firearm.
367	812.014 (6)	2nd	Theft; property stolen \$3,000 or more; coordination of others.
368	812.015 (9) (a)	2nd	Retail theft; property stolen \$750 or more; second or subsequent conviction.
369	812.015 (9) (b)	2nd	Retail theft; aggregated property stolen within 120 days is \$3,000 or more; coordination of others.
370			

371	812.015 (9) (d)	2nd	Retail theft; multiple thefts within specified period.
372	812.015 (9) (e)	2nd	Retail theft; committed with specified number of other persons and use of social media platform.
373	812.13 (2) (c)	2nd	Robbery, no firearm or other weapon (strong-arm robbery).
374	817.4821 (5)	2nd	Possess cloning paraphernalia with intent to create cloned cellular telephones.
375	817.49 (2) (b) 2.	2nd	Willful making of a false report of a crime resulting in death.
376	817.505 (4) (b)	2nd	Patient brokering; 10 or more patients.
	817.5695 (3) (b)	2nd	Exploitation of person 65 years of age or older, value \$10,000 or more, but less than \$50,000.

377	825.102 (1)	3rd	Abuse of an elderly person or disabled adult.
378	825.102 (3) (c)	3rd	Neglect of an elderly person or disabled adult.
379	825.1025 (3)	3rd	Lewd or lascivious molestation of an elderly person or disabled adult.
380	825.103 (3) (c)	3rd	Exploiting an elderly person or disabled adult and property is valued at less than \$10,000.
381	827.03 (2) (c)	3rd	Abuse of a child.
382	827.03 (2) (d)	3rd	Neglect of a child.
383	827.071 (5)	3rd	Possess, control, or intentionally view any photographic material, motion picture, etc., which includes child pornography.
384			

385	828.126 (3)	3rd	Sexual activities involving animals.
386	836.05	2nd	Threats; extortion.
387	836.10	2nd	Written or electronic threats to kill, do bodily injury, or conduct a mass shooting or an act of terrorism.
388	843.12	3rd	Aids or assists person to escape.
389	847.011	3rd	Distributing, offering to distribute, or possessing with intent to distribute obscene materials depicting minors.
390	847.012	3rd	Knowingly using a minor in the production of materials harmful to minors.
	847.0135 (2)	3rd	Facilitates sexual conduct of or with a minor or the visual depiction of such conduct.

391	893.131	2nd	Distribution of controlled substances resulting in overdose or serious bodily injury.
392	914.23	2nd	Retaliation against a witness, victim, or informant, with bodily injury.
393	918.13 (2) (b)	2nd	Tampering with or fabricating physical evidence relating to a capital felony.
394	944.35 (3) (a) 2.	3rd	Committing malicious battery upon or inflicting cruel or inhuman treatment on an inmate or offender on community supervision, resulting in great bodily harm.
395	944.40	2nd	Escapes.
396	944.46	3rd	Harboring, concealing, aiding escaped prisoners.

397 944.47(1)(a)5. 2nd Introduction of contraband  
 (firearm, weapon, or explosive)  
 into correctional facility.

398 951.22(1)(i) 3rd Firearm or weapon introduced  
 into county detention facility.

399  
 400 **Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section**  
 401 **943.082, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (c) is**  
 402 **added to that subsection, to read:**

403 943.082 School Safety Awareness Program.—

404 (4)(a) Law enforcement dispatch centers, school districts,  
 405 schools, postsecondary institutions, and other entities  
 406 identified by the department must be made aware of the mobile  
 407 suspicious activity reporting tool.

408 (c) Each public postsecondary educational institution, as  
 409 defined in s. 1000.04(3), shall promote the use of the mobile  
 410 suspicious activity reporting tool by advertising it on the  
 411 institution website, by installing it on all mobile devices  
 412 issued by the institution, and by bookmarking the website on all  
 413 computer devices maintained by the institution.

414 **Section 5. Subsection (4) is added to section 1003.25,**  
 415 **Florida Statutes, and subsection (2) of that section is**  
 416 **republished, to read:**



417 1003.25 Procedures for maintenance and transfer of student  
418 records.—

419 (2) The procedure for transferring and maintaining records  
420 of students who transfer from school to school is prescribed by  
421 rules of the State Board of Education. The transfer of records  
422 must occur within 5 school days. The records must include, if  
423 applicable:

424 (a) Verified reports of serious or recurrent behavior  
425 patterns, including any threat assessment report, all  
426 corresponding documentation, and any other information required  
427 by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument  
428 pursuant to s. 1001.212(11) which contains the evaluation,  
429 intervention, and management of the threat assessment  
430 evaluations and intervention services.

431 (b) Psychological evaluations, including therapeutic  
432 treatment plans and therapy or progress notes created or  
433 maintained by school district or charter school staff, as  
434 appropriate.

435 (4) When the education records of a student contain the  
436 documents described in subsection (2) and the student enrolls in  
437 a Florida College System institution or state university, such  
438 records must be transferred to his or her institution or  
439 university of enrollment. The State Board of Education and the  
440 Board of Governors shall adopt rules and regulations,  
441 respectively, to establish the procedures for the transfer of a

442 student's threat assessment report pursuant to this subsection.

443 **Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section**  
444 **1006.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

445 1006.07 District school board duties relating to student  
446 discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall  
447 provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the  
448 attendance and control of students at school, and for proper  
449 attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the  
450 welfare of students, including:

451 (6) SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES.—Each district  
452 school superintendent shall establish policies and procedures  
453 for the prevention of violence on school grounds, including the  
454 assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior  
455 poses a threat to the safety of the school community.

456 (a) School safety specialist.—Each district school  
457 superintendent shall designate a school safety specialist for  
458 the district. The school safety specialist must be a school  
459 administrator employed by the school district or a law  
460 enforcement officer employed by the sheriff's office located in  
461 the school district. Any school safety specialist designated  
462 from the sheriff's office must first be authorized and approved  
463 by the sheriff employing the law enforcement officer. Any school  
464 safety specialist designated from the sheriff's office remains  
465 the employee of the office for purposes of compensation,  
466 insurance, workers' compensation, and other benefits authorized

467 by law for a law enforcement officer employed by the sheriff's  
468 office. The sheriff and the school superintendent may determine  
469 by agreement the reimbursement for such costs, or may share the  
470 costs, associated with employment of the law enforcement officer  
471 as a school safety specialist. The school safety specialist must  
472 earn a certificate of completion of the school safety specialist  
473 training provided by the Office of Safe Schools within 1 year  
474 after appointment and is responsible for the supervision and  
475 oversight for all school safety and security personnel,  
476 policies, and procedures in the school district. The school  
477 safety specialist, or his or her designee, shall:

478 1. In conjunction with the district school superintendent,  
479 annually review school district policies and procedures for  
480 compliance with state law and rules, including the district's  
481 timely and accurate submission of school environmental safety  
482 incident reports to the department pursuant to s. 1001.212(8).  
483 At least quarterly, the school safety specialist must report to  
484 the district school superintendent and the district school board  
485 any noncompliance by the school district with laws or rules  
486 regarding school safety.

487 2. Provide the necessary training and resources to  
488 students and school district staff in matters relating to youth  
489 mental health awareness and assistance; emergency procedures,  
490 including active shooter training; and school safety and  
491 security. Such training for classroom teachers and other members

492 of instructional staff must explain the purpose, importance, and  
493 proper execution of school safety protocols and emergency  
494 procedures.

495 3. Serve as the school district liaison with local public  
496 safety agencies and national, state, and community agencies and  
497 organizations in matters of school safety and security.

498 4. In collaboration with the appropriate public safety  
499 agencies, as that term is defined in s. 365.171, by October 1 of  
500 each year, conduct a school security risk assessment at each  
501 public school using the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool  
502 developed by the Office of Safe Schools pursuant to s.  
503 1006.1493. Based on the assessment findings, the district's  
504 school safety specialist shall provide recommendations to the  
505 district school superintendent and the district school board  
506 which identify strategies and activities that the district  
507 school board should implement in order to address the findings  
508 and improve school safety and security. Each district school  
509 board must receive such findings and the school safety  
510 specialist's recommendations at a publicly noticed district  
511 school board meeting to provide the public an opportunity to  
512 hear the district school board members discuss and take action  
513 on the findings and recommendations. Each school safety  
514 specialist, through the district school superintendent, shall  
515 report such findings and school board action to the Office of  
516 Safe Schools within 30 days after the district school board

517 meeting.

518 5. Conduct annual unannounced inspections, using the form  
 519 adopted by the Office of Safe Schools pursuant to s.  
 520 1001.212(13), of all public schools, including charter schools,  
 521 while school is in session and investigate reports of  
 522 noncompliance with school safety requirements.

523 6. Report violations of paragraph (f) by administrative  
 524 personnel and instructional personnel to the district school  
 525 superintendent or charter school administrator, as applicable.

526 **Section 7. Section 1006.601, Florida Statutes, is created**  
 527 **to read:**

528 1006.601 Student safety.—

529 (1) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term "public  
 530 postsecondary educational institution" has the same meaning as  
 531 in s. 1000.04(3).

532 (2) SCHOOL GUARDIANS.—

533 (a) Public postsecondary educational institutions are  
 534 authorized to participate in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis,  
 535 and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program and may appoint  
 536 certified school guardians pursuant to s. 30.15(1)(k).

537 (b) An employee or faculty member of a public  
 538 postsecondary educational institution may serve as a school  
 539 guardian, in support of school-sanctioned activities for  
 540 purposes of s. 790.115, upon satisfactory completion of the  
 541 requirements under s. 30.15(1)(k) and certification by a

542 sheriff.

543 (3) SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES.—

544 (a) Response plans.—Each public postsecondary educational  
545 institution shall:

546 1. Adopt an active assailant response plan, including  
547 methods for issuing campus-wide alerts, and annually certify  
548 that all faculty, staff, and students have completed active  
549 assailant preparedness training. The plan must clearly identify  
550 who may issue an emergency alert.

551 2. Adopt, in cooperation with local law enforcement  
552 agencies and local government, a family reunification plan to  
553 reunite students and employees with their families in the event  
554 that an institution is closed or unexpectedly evacuated due to a  
555 natural or manmade disaster. This reunification plan must be  
556 reviewed annually and updated as necessary.

557 (b) Student mental health.—Each public postsecondary  
558 educational institution shall:

559 1. Train faculty to detect and respond to mental health  
560 issues as well as connect students who may experience behavioral  
561 health issues with appropriate services, both on campus and in  
562 the community, including crisis intervention.

563 2. Post on its website and in conspicuous locations at  
564 each institution a mental health awareness and suicide  
565 prevention sign that identifies ways a person can access help  
566 and services. Physical signs must be at least 11 inches by 15

567 inches in size and must be printed in an easily legible font and  
568 in at least 32-point type.

569 3. Establish threat management teams whose duties include  
570 the coordination of resources and assessment and intervention  
571 with students whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of  
572 the institution, institution staff, or students. The threat  
573 management team must use the statewide behavioral threat  
574 management operational process and Florida-specific behavioral  
575 threat assessment instrument developed by the Office of Safe  
576 Schools pursuant to s. 1001.212(11) or another comparable tool  
577 deemed appropriate for postsecondary institutions by the State  
578 Board of Education and Board of Governors.

579  
580 The Commissioner of Education and the Chancellor of the State  
581 University System shall provide guidance on when and how  
582 administrators, mental health providers, and other appropriate  
583 personnel are legally entitled to share and receive information  
584 about individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others,  
585 including, but not limited to, the transmission of education  
586 records pursuant to s. 1003.25(4).

587 (c) Security risk assessment.—Each public postsecondary  
588 educational institution, in collaboration with appropriate  
589 public safety agencies, as defined in s. 365.171(3)(d), shall  
590 annually conduct a security risk assessment at each campus using  
591 the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool developed by the Office

592 of Safe Schools pursuant to s. 1006.1493 or another comparable  
593 tool deemed appropriate for postsecondary institutions by the  
594 State Board of Education and Board of Governors. Subject to an  
595 appropriation, the institution may apply for grant funds for  
596 security improvements to its campus based on findings in the  
597 security risk assessment.

598 (4) RULES AND REGULATIONS.—The State Board of Education  
599 and the Board of Governors may adopt rules and regulations,  
600 respectively, to implement this section.

601 **Section 8. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**  
602 **made by this act to section 30.15, Florida Statutes, in a**  
603 **reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (19) of section**  
604 **402.305, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

605 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

606 (19) SAFE-SCHOOL OFFICERS.—

607 (a) A child care facility may partner with a law  
608 enforcement agency or a security agency to establish or assign  
609 one or more safe-school officers established in s. 1006.12(1)-  
610 (4). The child care facility is responsible for the full cost of  
611 implementing any such option, which includes all training costs  
612 under the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel  
613 Guardian Program under s. 30.15(1)(k).

614 **Section 9. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**  
615 **made by this act to section 30.15, Florida Statutes, in a**  
616 **reference thereto, section 843.08, Florida Statutes, is**



617 **reenacted to read:**

618       843.08 False personation.—A person who falsely assumes or  
619 pretends to be a firefighter, a sheriff, an officer of the  
620 Florida Highway Patrol, an officer of the Fish and Wildlife  
621 Conservation Commission, an officer of the Department of  
622 Environmental Protection, an officer of the Department of  
623 Financial Services, any personnel or representative of the  
624 Division of Criminal Investigations, an officer of the  
625 Department of Corrections, a correctional probation officer, a  
626 deputy sheriff, a state attorney or an assistant state attorney,  
627 a statewide prosecutor or an assistant statewide prosecutor, a  
628 state attorney investigator, a coroner, a police officer, a  
629 lottery special agent or lottery investigator, a beverage  
630 enforcement agent, a school guardian as described in s.  
631 30.15(1)(k), a security officer licensed under chapter 493, any  
632 member of the Florida Commission on Offender Review or any  
633 administrative aide or supervisor employed by the commission,  
634 any personnel or representative of the Department of Law  
635 Enforcement, or a federal law enforcement officer as defined in  
636 s. 901.1505, and takes upon himself or herself to act as such,  
637 or to require any other person to aid or assist him or her in a  
638 matter pertaining to the duty of any such officer, commits a  
639 felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s.  
640 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. However, a person who  
641 falsely personates any such officer during the course of the

642 commission of a felony commits a felony of the second degree,  
643 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.  
644 If the commission of the felony results in the death or personal  
645 injury of another human being, the person commits a felony of  
646 the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s.  
647 775.083, or s. 775.084. In determining whether a defendant has  
648 violated this section, the court or jury may consider any  
649 relevant evidence, including, but not limited to, whether the  
650 defendant used lights in violation of s. 316.2397 or s. 843.081.

651 **Section 10. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**  
652 **made by this act to section 30.15, Florida Statutes, in a**  
653 **reference thereto, subsection (16) of section 943.03, Florida**  
654 **Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

655 943.03 Department of Law Enforcement.—

656 (16) Upon request, the department shall consult with  
657 sheriffs to provide input regarding programmatic guiding  
658 principles, practices, and resources in order to assist in the  
659 development and implementation of the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron  
660 Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program established  
661 pursuant to s. 30.15. Such input and guidance may include, but  
662 need not be limited to, standards, curriculum, instructional  
663 strategies, evaluation, certification, records retention,  
664 equipment, and other resource needs.

665 **Section 11. For the purpose of incorporating the**  
666 **amendments made by this act to sections 943.082 and 1006.07,**

667 **Florida Statutes, in references thereto, subsections (1), (4),**  
668 **and (10) of section 1001.212, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to**  
669 **read:**

670 1001.212 Office of Safe Schools.—There is created in the  
671 Department of Education the Office of Safe Schools. The office  
672 is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education. The  
673 office shall serve as a central repository for best practices,  
674 training standards, and compliance oversight in all matters  
675 regarding school safety and security, including prevention  
676 efforts, intervention efforts, and emergency preparedness  
677 planning. The office shall:

678 (1) Establish and update as necessary a school security  
679 risk assessment tool for use by school districts pursuant to s.  
680 1006.07(6). The office shall make the security risk assessment  
681 tool available for use by charter schools. The office shall  
682 provide annual training to appropriate school district and  
683 charter school personnel on the proper assessment of physical  
684 site security and completion of the school security risk  
685 assessment tool.

686 (4) Develop and implement a School Safety Specialist  
687 Training Program for school safety specialists appointed  
688 pursuant to s. 1006.07(6). The office shall develop the training  
689 program which shall be based on national and state best  
690 practices on school safety and security and must include active  
691 shooter training. The office shall develop training modules in

692 traditional or online formats. A school safety specialist  
693 certificate of completion shall be awarded to a school safety  
694 specialist who satisfactorily completes the training required by  
695 rules of the office.

696 (10) Disseminate, in consultation with the Department of  
697 Law Enforcement, to participating schools awareness and  
698 education materials on the proper use of the School Safety  
699 Awareness Program developed pursuant to s. 943.082, including  
700 the consequences of knowingly submitting false information.

701 **Section 12. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**  
702 **made by this act to section 30.15, Florida Statutes, in a**  
703 **reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (3), paragraph**  
704 **(a) of subsection (4), and subsection (7) of section 1006.12,**  
705 **Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:**

706 1006.12 Safe-school officers at each public school.—For  
707 the protection and safety of school personnel, property,  
708 students, and visitors, each district school board and school  
709 district superintendent shall partner with law enforcement  
710 agencies or security agencies to establish or assign one or more  
711 safe-school officers at each school facility within the  
712 district, including charter schools. A district school board  
713 must collaborate with charter school governing boards to  
714 facilitate charter school access to all safe-school officer  
715 options available under this section. The school district may  
716 implement any combination of the options in subsections (1)-(4)

717 to best meet the needs of the school district and charter  
718 schools.

719 (3) SCHOOL GUARDIAN.—

720 (a) At the school district's or the charter school  
721 governing board's discretion, as applicable, pursuant to s.  
722 30.15, a school district or charter school governing board may  
723 participate in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach  
724 Scott Beigel Guardian Program to meet the requirement of  
725 establishing a safe-school officer. The following individuals  
726 may serve as a school guardian, in support of school-sanctioned  
727 activities for purposes of s. 790.115, upon satisfactory  
728 completion of the requirements under s. 30.15(1)(k) and  
729 certification by a sheriff:

730 1. A school district employee or personnel, as defined  
731 under s. 1012.01, or a charter school employee, as provided  
732 under s. 1002.33(12)(a), who volunteers to serve as a school  
733 guardian in addition to his or her official job duties; or

734 2. An employee of a school district or a charter school  
735 who is hired for the specific purpose of serving as a school  
736 guardian.

737 (4) SCHOOL SECURITY GUARD.—A school district or charter  
738 school governing board may contract with a security agency as  
739 defined in s. 493.6101(18) to employ as a school security guard  
740 an individual who holds a Class "D" and Class "G" license  
741 pursuant to chapter 493, provided the following training and

742 contractual conditions are met:

743 (a) An individual who serves as a school security guard,  
744 for purposes of satisfying the requirements of this section,  
745 must:

746 1. Demonstrate completion of 144 hours of required  
747 training conducted by a sheriff pursuant to s. 30.15(1)(k)2.

748 2. Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a  
749 psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the  
750 Department of Law Enforcement and submit the results of the  
751 evaluation to the sheriff's office and school district, charter  
752 school governing board, or employing security agency, as  
753 applicable. The Department of Law Enforcement is authorized to  
754 provide the sheriff's office, school district, charter school  
755 governing board, or employing security agency with mental health  
756 and substance abuse data for compliance with this paragraph.

757 3. Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent  
758 random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s.  
759 112.0455 and the sheriff's office, school district, charter  
760 school governing board, or employing security agency, as  
761 applicable.

762 4. Be approved to work as a school security guard by the  
763 sheriff of each county in which the school security guard will  
764 be assigned to a school before commencing work at any school in  
765 that county. The sheriff's approval authorizes the security  
766 agency to assign the school security guard to any school in the

767 county, and the sheriff's approval is not limited to any  
768 particular school.

769 5. Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon  
770 inspection, and firearm qualification conducted by a sheriff  
771 pursuant to s. 30.15(1)(k)2.e. on at least an annual basis and  
772 provide documentation to the sheriff's office, school district,  
773 charter school governing board, or employing security agency, as  
774 applicable.

775 (7) LIMITATIONS.—An individual must satisfy the background  
776 screening, psychological evaluation, and drug test requirements  
777 and be approved by the sheriff before participating in any  
778 training required by s. 30.15(1)(k), which may be conducted only  
779 by a sheriff.

780

781 If a district school board, through its adopted policies,  
782 procedures, or actions, denies a charter school access to any  
783 safe-school officer options pursuant to this section, the school  
784 district must assign a school resource officer or school safety  
785 officer to the charter school. Under such circumstances, the  
786 charter school's share of the costs of the school resource  
787 officer or school safety officer may not exceed the safe school  
788 allocation funds provided to the charter school pursuant to s.  
789 1011.62(12) and shall be retained by the school district.

790 **Section 13.** Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
791 act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.