



HOUSE BILL 1421 – SCHOOL SAFETY

(CH. 2022-174, LAWS OF FLORIDA)

BILL SPONSORS	Representatives Hawkins and Hunschofsky, Education and Employment Committee, Secondary Education and Career Development Subcommittee, and Early Learning and Elementary Education Subcommittee
CO-SPONSORS	Representatives Bartleman, Caruso, Daley, Joseph, LaMarca, Mooney, Jr., and Rizo
EFFECTIVE DATE	July 1, 2022, except as noted
STATUTES	Amends sections (ss.) 943.082, 943.687, 1001.11, 1001.212, 1006.07, 1006.12, 1006.1493, and 1012.584, Florida Statutes (F.S.)

SUMMARY

House Bill 1421 includes improvements to school safety practices and oversight. It addresses identified needs such as a model reunification plan, rulemaking authority for emergency drill requirements, arrest powers for school district police officers on charter school property, and penalties for hoax tips submitted via FortifyFL. HB 1421 also delays the sunsetting of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission and reduces its investigative tasks in favor of increased school safety compliance oversight. Mental health enhancements include a requirement that schools, and mobile response teams use the same suicide screening instrument, and expanded requirements for youth mental health awareness and crisis intervention training.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Establishes penalties for anyone knowingly submitting false tips through FortifyFL, and requires the Office of Safe Schools (OSS) to develop materials on the proper use and consequences of misuse of FortifyFL.
- Shifts the duties of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission from investigating the school shooting to monitoring implementation of school safety legislation and extends the repeal of the Commission through July 1, 2026.
- Clarifies the Commissioner's authority to oversee and enforce compliance with all requirements relating to school safety and security.
- Revises the duties of the Office of Safe Schools to:



- Include charter school personnel in ongoing OSS professional development opportunities.
- Establish the “Florida School Safety Portal” as the official name for the centralized integrated data repository.
- Require coordination with the Division of Emergency Management and other federal, state and local first responder agencies to develop a model family reunification plan, reviewed and updated annually, for childcare through postsecondary educational facilities that are closed or evacuated. The plan is required to consider the integration of student information and notifications systems.
- Maintain a current directory of public school-based diversion programs and cooperate with the judicial circuits and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to facilitate their monitoring and enforcement of compliance with s. 985.12, F.S.
- Requires certain law enforcement officers to be physically present and directly involved in active assailant emergency drills; requires school districts to notify such law enforcement officers within 24 hours of such drills; requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules to include specified requirements for emergency drills; requires district school boards and charter school governing boards, in coordination with specified entities, to adopt family reunification plans, and provides for the update and review of those plans; requires all members of threat assessment teams be involved in the threat assessment processes and the final decisions; requires the Department to annually publish on its website school safety incident data in certain format.
- Authorizes school safety officers (such as school district police officers) to make arrests on property owned or leased by a charter school under a charter contract; requires district school superintendents, charter school administrators, or their designees, to notify county sheriffs and the OSS of certain safe-school officer-related incidents; specifies prerequisites for participation in the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian program training.
- Requires that the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool address policies and procedures to prepare for and respond to natural and manmade disasters, including the newly mandated reunification plans.
- In the area of mental health, the bill requires each school district to annually certify, in a format determined by the department, that no fewer than 80 percent of school personnel in elementary, middle, and high schools have received the required youth mental health awareness and assistance training. It also specifies mental health crisis intervention training requirements for all safe-school officers and requires district school

boards to adopt policies relating to suicide screening instruments.

GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

JULY 1, 2022	The act becomes effective.
JULY 1, 2023, AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER	Districts must certify that at least 80 percent of their school personnel have received youth mental health awareness and assistance training.
AUGUST 1, 2023	The State Board of Education must adopt rules, in consultation with state and local constituencies, that establish requirements for emergency drills in schools.
JULY 1, 2026	The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission sunsets.