

6A-1.0018 School Safety Requirements and Monitoring

(1) The purpose of this rule is to set forth requirements relating to school safety, reporting, and training. The rule also provides notice of the procedures and criteria utilized by the Office of Safe Schools to monitor school districts, school facilities, and individual schools for compliance with those requirements.

(2) Definitions.

(a) through (g) No change.

(h) “Exclusive zone” means the area within a gate or door allowing access to the interior perimeter of a school campus beyond a single point of entry.

~~(i)(h)~~ “Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool” or “FSSAT” means the site security risk assessment tool used by school officials at each school district and school facility as defined in (2)(t) of this rule public school site in the state, including charter schools, to conduct security assessments, as provided in Section 1006.1493, F.S.

(i) through (j) renumbered (j) through (k) No change.

(l) “Nonexclusive zone” means the area of a school campus that is outside of the exclusive zone but contained on school property. Nonexclusive zones may include, but are not limited to, such spaces as parking lots, athletic fields and stadiums, mechanical buildings, playgrounds, bus ramps, agricultural spaces, and other areas that do not give direct, unimpeded access to the exclusive zone.

~~(m)(k)~~ No change.

(n) “Plan for Urgent Life-Saving Emergencies” (PULSE) means the plan identified in Section 1003.457, F.S. Each public school must have a plan that follows evidence-based core elements including, but not limited to, establishing a life-threatening medical emergencies response team, protocols and procedures for activating the team in response to a suspected emergency, implementing automated external defibrillator (AED) placement and routine maintenance, disseminating and communicating the plan throughout the school, maintaining ongoing and appropriate staff training, coordinating and practicing emergency drills, and integrating local emergency medical services (EMS) with the plan.

~~(o)(l)~~ No change.

~~(p)(m)~~ “School” means a public K-12 school, including a charter school, with a Master School Identification Number (MSID) number as provided under Rule 6A-1.0016, F.A.C., but does not include:

1. through 2. No change.

3. Technical centers under Section 1004.91, F.S.

~~A list of schools meeting this definition will be provided to the School Safety Specialist annually by July 1.~~

“School” also includes the Florida Virtual School (Section 1002.37, F.S.), the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (Section 1002.36, F.S.), and Developmental Research (Laboratory) Schools (Section 1002.32, F.S.). These entities also function as “school districts” as defined in paragraph (2)(s)(p) of this rule.

(n) through (o) renumbered (q) through (r) No change.

~~(s)(p)~~ “School district” or “district” means a Florida school district or district school board, the Florida Virtual School (Section 1002.37, F.S.), the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (Section 1002.36, F.S.), ~~and~~ Developmental Research (Laboratory) Schools (Section 1002.32, F.S.), and universities or Florida College System institutions that sponsor a charter school (Section 1002.33(5), F.S.).

(t) “School facility” means a public K-12 school, including a charter school, with a Master School Identification Number (MSID) number as provided under Rule 6A-1.0016, F.A.C., with the following exceptions:

1. Schools with separate MSID numbers that are located at the same physical location and are co-located with each other are a single school facility.

2. Schools that are located at separate physical locations and are not co-located, but share one MSID number are separate school facilities.

3. A school facility does not include:

a. Schools without a physical location for instruction of students, such as virtual schools, virtual instruction programs, virtual course offerings, franchises of the Florida Virtual School, and virtual charter schools;

b. Settings where instruction is provided in a county jail or state prison, in a Department of Juvenile Justice facility or program, in a hospital, or while a student is homebound;

c. Schools that provide only prekindergarten or adult education;

d. Technical centers under Section 1004.91, F.S.;

e. Private schools, regardless of whether or not their students receive state scholarship funds under Chapter 1002, F.S.; and

f. Schools that are contracted by the district to provide school services to students at physical sites not owned, leased, or controlled by a school district.

(q) through (s) renumbered (u) through (w) No change.

(3) No change.

(4) Monitoring by the District School Safety Specialist.

(a) No change.

(b) Districts must establish policies that require the school safety specialist, or his or her designee, to review, in conjunction with the district school superintendent, the school district and charter school policies and procedures at least annually for compliance with state law and rules, as provided by Section 1006.07(6)(a)1., F.S. These policies must include a requirement that substitute teachers are provided all school safety protocols and policies before beginning their first day of substitute teaching at a school. Districts must submit all school district and charter school policies and written procedures pertaining to the health, safety or welfare of students to the Office of Safe Schools by September 1 of each year.

(c) School safety specialists, or their designees, must investigate reports of noncompliance with school safety requirements and must conduct unannounced inspections at least annually of all school facilities ~~public schools~~ within their district, ~~including charter schools~~. These unannounced visits must occur while school is in session. The results of the annual unannounced inspection must be documented on the District Florida School Safety Compliance Inspection Report in FSSAT.

(d) through (f) No change.

(5) Monitoring by the Office of Safe Schools – Process.

(a) The Office will monitor compliance and investigate reports of noncompliance with the school safety requirements identified in this rule through announced and unannounced inspections of all school facilities ~~public schools, including charter schools~~. Monitoring and investigations may also include on-site visits to schools and district facilities or offices, review of school and district websites and publications, interviews with students and staff, and review of media reports and other information submitted to or received by the Office.

(b) through (d) No change.

(e) Unannounced compliance visits by OSS.

1. Timing. Triennially (every three years), the Office will conduct at least one unannounced inspection of all school facilities ~~public schools, including charter schools~~, while school is in session. School facilities ~~Schools~~ with documented areas of noncompliance will be reinspected within six (6) months.

2. through 3. No change.

(f) through (i) No change.

(j) The Office will provide quarterly reports to each district school superintendent and school safety specialist identifying the number and percentage of school facilities ~~schools, including charter schools,~~ that received unannounced inspections, or were reinspected during that quarter, and the number and percentage of inspected school facilities ~~schools~~ that had no school safety requirement deficiencies.

(6) No change.

(7) Safe-school officer. School districts are required to establish or assign at least one safe-school officer at each school facility within the district, as provided in Section 1006.12, F.S.

~~(a) A school facility means a public K-12 school, including a charter school, with a Master School Identification Number (MSID) number as provided under Rule 6A-1.0016, F.A.C., with the following exceptions:~~

~~1. Schools with separate MSID numbers that are located at the same physical location and are co-located with each other are a single school facility.~~

~~2. Schools that are located at separate physical locations and are not co-located, but share one MSID number are separate school facilities.~~

~~3. A school facility does not include:~~

~~a. Schools without a physical location for instruction of students, such as virtual schools, virtual instruction programs, virtual course offerings, franchises of the Florida Virtual School and virtual charter schools;~~

~~b. Settings where instruction is provided in a county jail or state prison, in a Department of Juvenile Justice facility or program, in a hospital, or while a student is homebound;~~

~~c. Schools that provide only prekindergarten or adult education;~~

~~d. Technical centers under Section 1004.91, F.S.; and~~

~~e. Private schools, regardless of whether or not their students receive state scholarship funds under Chapter 1002, F.S.~~

(b) through (e) renumbered (a) through (d) No change.

(8) Campus Access Control. Each school district, districts, and charter school governing board must ensure that all ~~public~~ schools comply with the following campus access control requirements, which apply from thirty (30) minutes before the school start time until thirty (30) minutes after the end of the school day. ÷

(a) Schools with a secure exclusive zone. All gates or other access points that restrict ingress to or egress from

~~the exclusive zone of~~ a school campus must remain closed and locked when students are on campus. ~~A gate or other campus access point may not be open or unlocked, regardless of whether it is during normal school hours, unless:~~

1. No change.

2. The use ~~is in accordance with~~ complies with a shared use agreement pursuant to Section 1013.101, F.S.;

3. Another closed and locked gate or access point separates the open or unlocked gate from areas occupied by students; or

4. 3- The school safety specialist, or his or her designee, has documented in FSSAT that the gate or other access point is not subject to this requirement based upon other safety measures at the school, or based upon compliance with the Florida Fire Prevention Code. Documentation in FSSAT must include a description of the other safety measures present and a photograph of the gate or access point not subject to the requirement.

(b) Schools without a secure exclusive zone. All campus access doors, gates, and other access points that allow ingress to or egress from a school building must remain closed and locked at all times to prevent ingress, unless:

1. A person is actively entering or exiting the door, gate, or other access point ~~or~~;

2. The door, gate, or access point is attended or actively staffed by school personnel to prevent unauthorized entry; or

3. 2- The school safety specialist, or his or her designee, has documented in the FSSAT that the open and unlocked door, gate, or other access point is not subject to this requirement based upon other safety measures at the school. There must be at least one locked barrier between classrooms and instructional spaces and open school campus. Documentation in FSSAT must include a description of the other safety measures present and a photograph of each unlocked door, gate, or other access point ~~the classroom door~~ not subject to the requirement.

(c) Classrooms and instructional spaces. All school classrooms and other instructional spaces must be locked to prevent ingress when occupied by students, unless:

1. through 2. No change.

(d) Common areas. Common areas, including but not limited to cafeterias, gymnasiums, auditoriums, and media centers, must meet the requirements of paragraph (8)(c) only when they are used for instructional time or student testing.

(e) Career and technical education. Instructional spaces for career and technical education which are designed as open areas must meet the requirements of paragraph (8)(c) unless they are exempted from compliance by the school

safety specialist. The school safety specialist, or his or her designee, must document in FSSAT that the instructional space is exempt due to negative impacts to student health and safety and the presence of other safety measures at the school that prevent egress from the instructional space to hallways or other classrooms or instructional spaces. Documentation in FSSAT must include a description of the other safety measures present and a photograph of the instructional space not subject to the requirement

(f) Temporary door locks. School classrooms and other instructional spaces with permanently installed door locks may not use temporary door locks during an active assailant incident, unless the temporary locks meet all requirements in Section 1006.07(6)(f)2.a., F.S. Use of these locks requires documented compliance with the Florida Fire Prevention Code and must be integrated into the school's active assailant response plan.

(9) through (12) No change.

(13) Zero-Tolerance Policies and Agreements with Law Enforcement.

(a) through (b) No change.

(c) Each district must adopt a cooperative agreement with the Department of Juvenile Justice regarding enforcement of no contact orders, as provided by Section 1006.13(6)(b), F.S.

(14) School Security Risk Assessments and the FSSAT.

(a) Annually, by August 1, school districts are required to ensure accuracy of current school facility listings, for their district within the FSSAT application, including school name(s) ~~name~~, address, and MSID number(s) ~~number~~. Districts must use the "School Facility Asset Template" in FSSAT for each school facility in the district. School districts are required to report to the Office via FSSAT within five (5) school days of a school facility opening or closing, or when any other change occurs that impacts the accuracy of district-provided information in FSSAT.

(b) No change.

(c) Each year, the school safety specialist must complete a school security risk assessment on or before October 1 at each ~~public~~ school facility in their district using the FSSAT, as provided in Section 1006.07(6)(a)4., F.S., and Section 1006.1493, F.S. The school safety specialist must also complete a school security risk assessment for any school facility that opens after October 1, prior to the school facility opening for classroom instruction ~~security risk assessment is not required for virtual schools or programs that do not have a physical school site.~~

(d) School safety specialists must report by October 15 each year in the FSSAT that required school security risk assessments are completed, as provided in Section 1006.1493(3)(b) ~~1011.62(15)~~, F.S.

(e) through (g) No change.

(15) First Responders' School Safety Recommendations.

(a) The district's school safety specialist must coordinate with public safety agencies, as defined in Section 365.171, F.S., that are designated first responders to a school's campus to tour each school's campus once every three (3) years and to provide recommendations related to school safety, as provided in Section 1006.07(6)(~~c~~)(~~b~~), F.S.

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) The district's school safety specialist, or designee, must coordinate with local emergency service providers to integrate each public schools' PULSE into the community's emergency responder protocols and register the location of each public schools' AED with the local emergency medical services medical director, in accordance with Section 1003.457, F.S. Recommendations made by emergency service responders, such as but not limited to school personnel training, drills, medical oversight, equipment procurement, placement, and maintenance must be considered in each public schools' PULSE and in accordance with evidence-based core elements.

(16) Emergency and fire-drills.

(a) through (b) No change.

(c) Requirements for all emergency drills and fire drills.

1. through 4. No change.

5. Emergency drills and fire drills must test all applicable functions included in the threat scenario, such as panic buttons, AEDs, participant movement (lockdown, shelter-in-place, or evacuation), simulated communications with first responders, simulated notification to parents, and appropriate protective actions, such as turning off lights, and covering windows.

6. through 7. No change.

(d) Requirements for specific types of drills.

1. No change.

2. Emergency drills.

a. Elementary, middle and high schools are required to conduct six (6) emergency drills every school year that are separate and nonconcurrent with fire drills. One active assailant ~~emergency~~ drill must take place within the first ten (10) school days of the beginning of the school year, and the remaining drills must take place at least once every

nine (9) week reporting period ~~forty-five (45) school days that school is in session~~. Four (4) of the six (6) emergency drills must address active threats. The remaining two (2) drills must address other emergency events, such as severe weather, natural disasters, hazardous materials, or reunification.

b. No change.

(17) Active Assailant Response Plans.

(a) Each district school board must adopt an active assailant response plan, as provided in Section 1006.07(6)(~~d~~)(e), F.S. Active assailant response plans must include, at a minimum, plans and expectations for responding to an active assailant situation using the following three (3) strategies: evading or evacuating, taking cover or hiding, and responding to or fighting back.

(b) through (d) No change.

(18) through (22) No change.

(23) Reporting Safe-School Officer Discipline, Dismissal or Discharge of Firearm.

(a) Discharge of a weapon. The district school superintendent, charter school administrator, or a respective designee must notify the Office when a safe-school officer assigned to any school or school facility in the district discharges a firearm in the exercise of safe-school officer duties, other than for training purposes, as provided in Section 1006.12(5), F.S. Notification must be made no later than seventy-two (72) hours of the incident by submitting Form SSON-2023 to SafeSchools@fldoe.org.

(b) Officer dismissal or discipline.

1. The district school superintendent, charter school administrator, or a respective designee must notify the Office when a safe-school officer assigned to a school or school facility in the district has been disciplined for misconduct or has been dismissed from their duties as a safe-school officer by their employer, including in cases where the officer is reassigned or moved to another school location, whether by a school district, charter school, law enforcement agency, or private security company, as provided in Section 1006.12(5), F.S. Safe-school officer misconduct is (1) any behavior by the safe-school officer that negatively impacts the safety of the school, its students, or staff; or (2) any offense related to gross immorality or acts of moral turpitude as defined in Rule 6A-10.083, F.A.C. Notification must be made no later than seventy-two (72) hours of the dismissal or disciplinary action by submitting Form SSON-2023 to SafeSchools@fldoe.org.

2. No change.

(c) No change.

(24) through (26) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 1001.02(2)(n), 1006.07(4)(a) FS. Law Implemented 1001.11(9), 1001.212(4), (12), (14), (15), 1006.07(4)(a), (6), (7), (9), 1006.12(5), 1006.147, 1006.1493, 1008.386(3), 1012.584 FS. History—New 7-14-21, Amended 11-23-21, 6-14-22, 9-20-22, 11-22-22, 4-25-23, 9-26-23, 7-2-24, 12-24-24.