



Ryan Petty, *Chair*
MaryLynn Magar, *Vice Chair*
Members
Grazie P. Christie
Layla Collins
Daniel P. Foganholi, Sr.
Erika Fritz-Ochs
Luis Fuste

MEMORANDUM**TO:** Florida College System Presidents**FROM:** Kathryn S. Hebda**DATE:** July 8, 2026**SUBJECT:** **House Bill 757 – School Safety (Ch. 2026-80, Laws of Florida)****DFC Memorandum: 2026-08****Contact:** Chancellor FCS**Email:** chancellorFCS@fldoe.org**Phone:** 850-245-0407

House Bill 757 – School Safety was signed into law by Governor DeSantis at the Commissioner’s Summit in Miami on May 15, 2026. The bill significantly expands Florida’s school safety framework to public postsecondary educational institutions, including Florida College System (FCS) institutions and state universities. The bill authorizes armed school guardians and allows them to carry firearms on campus; creates new criminal offenses; mandates campus-wide safety planning, threat management and training; requires promotion of a statewide suspicious activity reporting tool; and establishes new student record transfer requirements related to threat assessments.

Section by Section Bill Contents

Section 1. Amends section (s.) 30.15, Florida Statutes (F.S.), to add public postsecondary educational institutions to the list of entities authorized to participate in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel School Guardian Program (Guardian Program), and authorizes the presidents of such institutions to appoint employees or faculty members to serve as school guardians.

The sheriff providing the required training for guardians at public postsecondary educational institutions will be reimbursed the costs for the training, so there is no cost to the institution or the sheriff. Institutions must report their list of appointed school guardians or employed security guards to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) on February 1 and September 1 of each year. FDLE will notify the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) by March 1 and October 1 each year of any institutions that have not reported.

Institutions interested in participating in the Guardian Program may contact their local sheriff’s office for more information and planning or the Office of Safe Schools at SafeSchools@fldoe.org. Funding was allocated in the amount of \$4.2 million in the 2026-27 General Appropriations Act for FCS guardian training in 2026-27.

KATHRYN S. HEBDA
FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM CHANCELLOR

Section 2. Amends s. 790.115, F.S., to create a second degree felony if a person discharges any weapon or firearm within 1,000 feet of a school, during school hours or during the time of a sanctioned school activity, unless discharged for lawful defense of himself/herself or another, or for a lawful purpose. This does not apply to discharging a weapon or firearm on private real property within 1,000 feet of a school by the owner or a person authorized, licensed or invited by the owner. Anyone arrested for discharging a weapon or firearm within 1,000 feet of a school during school hours or during the time of a sanctioned school activity must be held in custody until brought before the court for admittance to bail. This section is effective October 1, 2026.

Section 3. Conforms s. 921.0022, F.S., to provide ranking of discharging a weapon within 1,000 feet of a school on the Criminal Punishment Code. This section is effective October 1, 2026.

Section 4. Amends s. 943.082, F.S., School Safety Awareness Program, to require public postsecondary educational institutions that do not have their own existing public safety reporting application or “app” as of July 1, 2026, to promote the use of the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool, FortifyFL (“Fortify Florida”), by advertising it on the institution’s website, installing it on all mobile devices used by the institution and bookmarking the website on all computer devices maintained by the institution.

Section 5. Amends s. 1003.25, F.S., Procedures for maintenance and transfer of student records, to require specified educational records related to a student’s behavior, including threat assessment reports and student psychological evaluations, to be transferred to an FCS institution or state university upon enrollment. It also requires the State Board of Education (SBOE) and the Board of Governors (BOG) to adopt rules and regulations to establish procedures for the transfer of a student’s threat assessment report from K-12 to the postsecondary institution.

Section 6. Amends s. 1006.07, F.S., District school board duties relating to student discipline and school safety, to include universities, Florida College System institutions and state law enforcement agencies to be able to communicate, collaborate and coordinate efforts and share records or confidential information with school districts, charter schools, specific state agencies and any other necessary agencies to ensure access to appropriate services for the student or to ensure the safety of the student or others.

Section 7. Creates s. 1006.601, F.S., Active Response and Mitigation of On-Campus Risks (ARMOR) Act and provides the authority for Florida public postsecondary educational institutions to participate in the Guardian Program.

The bill requires public postsecondary educational institutions to:

- Adopt active assailant plans and annually certify that all faculty, staff and students have completed active assailant preparedness training.
- Adopt a family reunification plan and annually review it in coordination with local law enforcement and local government.
- Train faculty to detect and respond to mental health issues and connect students with appropriate services.
- Post on their websites and around campus on mental health awareness and suicide prevention signs as specified in the Act.
- Establish threat management teams and collaborate with the appropriate public safety agencies to annually conduct a security risk assessment at each campus using the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool.

- Adopt policies and procedures to support students, faculty and staff who are victims of violence, attempted violence or credible threats.

Section 13. Except as otherwise provided, this act shall take effect upon becoming law (signed into law on May 15, 2026).

Next Steps

Implementation Meetings

The Division of Florida Colleges (Division) has partnered with the Office of Safe Schools to provide a series of meetings for an FCS HB 757 Safety Workgroup comprised of FCS safety leads, including the cabinet level personnel identified recently, and other college staff who are leading implementation to learn and provide feedback on specific parts of the bill. Topics include common threat management processes for postsecondary institutions, sharing threat information, training on the Florida Model for K-12 public schools, development of the security risk assessment template and adoption of mobile suspicious activity tools. Work conducted during these meetings will help with rule development and technical assistance content. These meetings will be conducted in parallel with similar meetings held for state university system personnel, with the intent that both systems share certain common requirements for threat management.

The first meeting of the Workgroup was held in person at Valencia College, on June 23 and 24. The next Workgroup meeting will be held virtually on July 22. An in-person implementation meeting for expanded college teams will be held at Valencia College on August 6. Information regarding logistics for all meetings is forthcoming soon under separate cover.

Rule Development

- The Division is currently in rule development for new rule 6A-14.012, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), ARMOR Act - Florida College System Institution Safety Requirements and Monitoring, to provide requirements and guidance on the portions of the bill covered by the ARMOR Act (Section 7 of HB 757). We are working in conjunction with staff in the Office of the BOG so that language in the SBOE rule and the BOG regulation are aligned. We anticipate this rule to be considered by the SBOE at its meeting on September 16, 2026, and a rule workshop will be held on July 24, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. ET. Information on the rule workshop and opportunities to comment on the rule may be found at the following link: <https://web02.fldoe.org/Rules/>.
- The Office of Safe Schools is revising two SBOE rules to include necessary language to authorize the appropriate actions under the new law. Specific details about processes will be provided subsequently through technical assistance.
 - Rule 6A-1.0019, F.A.C., Threat Management, is being amended to add necessary language to give FCS and state university threat management personnel permission to view information in the Department's Threat Assessment portal. We anticipate this rule to be considered by the SBOE at its meeting on September 16, 2026, and will provide rule workshop information as soon as it becomes available.

- Rule 6A-1.0955, F.A.C., Education Records, is being amended to add the requirement for school districts to transfer student records to FCS and SUS institutions, upon enrollment by their students, including threat assessment information. This will include both when the district notifies the college or university that a student is eligible for dual enrollment and when the college or university notifies the district that a student has enrolled in the institution. The workshop for this rule was held June 5, 2026, and the proposed rule text is available here: [31017804, 6A-1.0955 - Florida Administrative Rules, Law, Code, Register - FAC, FAR, eRulemaking](#).

F.A.S.T.E.R. Data Field Update

FDOE is adding a new data field to the F.A.S.T.E.R. transcript system both for secondary and postsecondary transcripts that would alert a receiving institution that the student had received a prior threat assessment. This “yes/no” indicator is intended to alert the receiving institution only that they should contact the sending institution for more information. Work on this procedure is ongoing and is anticipated to be released with the other annual updates to the F.A.S.T.E.R. system in October. Technical assistance will be provided to district, FCS and state university personnel regarding the use of this indicator as part of the threat management process implementation and prior to the annual F.A.S.T.E.R. update.

Thank you for your continued efforts in keeping our campuses safe for everyone. For more information or if you have questions, please contact me at Kathy.hebda@fldoe.org or Alex Jordan at Alex.Jordan@fldoe.org or 850-245-0407.

KH/lc

cc: Kevin O’Farrell, Ph.D., Senior Chancellor, Florida Department of Education
Emily Sikes, Vice Chancellor for Student and Academic Affairs, Florida Board of Governors
Tim Hay, Executive Director, Office of Safe Schools, Florida Department of Education