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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Pam Stewart

DATE: April 27, 2018

SUBJECT: Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool Training and Deadlines

Contact Information:

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DPS: 2018-69

On March 9, 2018, Governor Rick Scott signed the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act into law. This Act requires school districts to complete a school security risk assessment at each school district and public school site in the state, in accordance with the newly created section 1006.1493, Florida Statutes. Section 1001.212(1), Florida Statutes, states that the school security risk assessment shall also be available for use by charter schools. The Florida Department of Education (department) has established the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT) to meet these requirements.

In a letter to the school district superintendents dated March 23, 2018, Governor Scott outlined several deadlines that the school districts must meet for implementation of the new law. Specifically, the governor directed each school district to complete a security risk assessment for each public school campus by August 1, 2018. The districts must conduct the assessments in consultation with local law enforcement.

Based on the assessment findings, the district's school safety specialist is to provide recommendations to the district school board that identify strategies and activities that the school district should implement to improve school safety and security. Under the Act, section 1006.07(6)(a)4, Florida Statutes, specifies that each school board must receive assessment results at a publicly noticed school board meeting to provide the public an opportunity to hear the school board members discuss and act on any findings and recommendations. Furthermore, each district's school safety specialist shall report the self-assessment findings and school board actions to the department's Office of Safe Schools within 30 days following the school board meeting. Please note that, for 2018-19, certification statements of school board actions are due to the department by October 31, 2018, via FSSAT.

The department requests that school district superintendents designate a district point of contact to coordinate with the state FSSAT administrator, Sylvia Ifft, at 850-245-5121 or via email at Sylvia.Ifft@fldoe.org, regarding access to FSSAT and technical assistance for completing the district and public school assessments.

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In order to protect sensitive information in FSSAT, the department's single sign-on (SSO) portal will be used for requesting access to the FSSAT. The Division of Technology and Innovation will work with your SSO technical lead on the process for accessing the FSSAT. Any questions regarding the SSO can be directed to Cole Sousa, Division of Technology and Innovation, at 850-245-0428 or fldoe-ss0@fldoe.org.

To assist districts and schools with implementing the FSSAT, the department will host a series of webinars to provide guidance and answer questions regarding use of the tool. Below is a schedule for the webinars.

Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool – Getting Started

- May 8, 2018 - 2:00 p.m., EDT (Safety Assessment Coordinators)
- May 10, 2018 - 10:00 a.m., EDT (Charter Schools)
- May 11, 2018 - 10:00 a.m., EDT (Make-up session for Districts and Charter Schools)

Finalizing School Security Risk Assessments in FSSAT

- May 22, 2018 - 2:00 p.m., EDT (Safety Assessment Coordinators)
- May 24, 2018 - 10:00 a.m., EDT (Charter Schools)
- May 25, 2018 - 10:00 a.m., EDT (Make-up session for Districts and Charter Schools)

District Assessments – Completing and Integrating School Security Risk Assessments

- May 29, 2018 - 2:00 p.m., EDT (Safety Assessment Coordinators)
- May 31, 2018 - 10:00 a.m., EDT (Make-up session)

Aggregating Data and Submitting the District Report

- June 5, 2018 - 2:00 p.m., EDT (Safety Assessment Coordinators)
- June 7, 2018 - 10:00 a.m., EDT (Make-up session)

The department will provide registration information for the webinars and additional on-demand training options to each district's FSSAT point of contact.

All inquiries pertaining to FSSAT can be directed to the Office of Emergency Management at 850-245-0019 or FSSAT@fldoe.org.

PS/si

cc: President, Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind
Directors, Florida Developmental Lab Schools
Directors, Charter Schools