MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents  
FROM: Tim Hay, Executive Director  
DATE: December 2, 2022  
SUBJECT: Amendments to School Safety Requirements and Monitoring

On October 19, 2022, the State Board of Education approved amendments to Rule 6A-1.0018, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), School Safety Requirements and Monitoring. Amendments to Rule 6A-1.0018, F.A.C., incorporate new requirements as a result of House Bill 1421 School Safety, as well as other clarifications on the expectations set forth within the legislation. The amendments became effective November 22, 2022. Specific areas addressed within this rule include the following additional requirements:

Monitoring by the District School Safety Specialist

(4)(b) 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 July 1 of each year.

FortifyFL

(9)(c) School districts are required to promote FortifyFL and consequences of knowingly submitting false information, as provided in section 943.082(4)(b), Florida Statutes (F.S.). Districts are required to:

1. Advertise FortifyFL on the district website, on school campuses, in newsletters, and in school publications;
2. Install the FortifyFL app on all mobile devices issued to students;
3. Bookmark the FortifyFL website on all computer devices issued to students; and
4. Advertise that someone who knowingly submits a false tip through FortifyFL may be subject to further investigations by law enforcement, and may be subject to criminal penalties under section 837.05, F.S.

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Threat Assessment Teams

(10)(d) Instrument. Each school-based threat assessment team must use the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG) model to assess the behavior of persons who may pose a threat to school staff or students and to coordinate intervention and services for such persons. All reported threats, even those determined not to be a threat, must be documented by the threat assessment team. Documentation must include the evaluation process and any resultant action. Requirements for retention, maintenance, and transfer of threat assessment records are found in Rule 6A-1.0955, F.A.C. Because the purpose of the threat assessment is to identify and intervene in response to threats to school safety, completing a threat assessment does not require parental consent; however, a student’s parent must be notified if the threat assessment process reveals information about a student’s mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being, or results in a change in related services or monitoring. Threat assessment teams must follow local district policies and procedures for required parent notification.

(10)(g) Reporting. Each district must ensure that all threat assessment teams in the district report to the Office of Safe Schools on the team’s activities during the previous school year. The district school safety specialist must ensure all schools in the district timely report information required by this paragraph. Information is due by October 1 and must be reported using the FSSAT: Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, the total number of threat assessments conducted, disaggregated by the total number of non-threats, the total number of transient threats, the total number of substantive threats, and the sex, race, and grade level of all students assessed by the threat assessment team.

Youth Mental Health Awareness and Assistance Training

(20) Youth Mental Health Awareness and Assistance Training. Each district school safety specialist shall ensure that all school personnel within his or her school district receive youth mental health awareness and assistance training, as provided in section 1012.584, F.S. See also Rule 6A-1.094120, F.A.C., Youth Mental Health Awareness Training and Reporting.

If you have any questions regarding school safety requirements and monitoring, please contact the Office of Safe Schools at SafeSchools@fldoe.org at 850-245-5173.

TH/br

cc: School District School Safety Specialists
Charter School Governing Boards