

School Safety Measures Implemented in Florida **Post the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School** **Massacre**

*Majority of measures were recommended by the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission after their 14-month investigation into the 2/14/18 massacre. Their recommendations were subsequently signed into law by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.

*All measures are completed except for ones marked pending.

Gun Safety

- Created a legal process (Risk Protection Orders) that requires people meeting certain criteria (threatened self-harm or harm toward others) to surrender their firearms and prohibits them from purchasing firearms.
- Prohibits gun purchases by anyone under age 21 and requires a 3-day waiting period for all gun purchases.
- Authorizes law enforcement officers to seize firearms when taking someone into custody under the Baker Act for threatened harm toward another person.

Guardian Program

- Created the Guardian Program and required that there be an armed Safe School Officer (armed person) on every school campus.
- The legislature should expand the Guardian Program to include all school personnel.
- Law enforcement and guardian staffing should be sufficient on each charter, elementary, middle and high school campus to provide immediate back-up and appropriate and timely response to an active assailant situation. (Pending. Most schools have one or two SROs or guardians, but most school districts still prohibit any school staff from participating in the guardian program.)

Mental Health

- Expanded mental health Community Action Teams to focus on people up to age 21 who have a history of criminal justice and law enforcement involvement.
- Expanded multi-agency network of mental health services in K-12 schools.
- Expanded mental health Mobile Response Teams focusing on people up to age 25 who are in crisis and need intensive case management until they are placed into services.
- At registration, every student is required to disclose any prior mental health referrals and schools are permitted to refer students for mental health services.
- Courts are required to report to the school superintendent any child they refer to mental health services.
- Mandated that mental health professionals report and warn others of impending threats by their patients.
- School mental health records must be placed in the student record and follow the student when he/she transfers from school-to-school and inter-district. Records are now required to be transferred within 3 days and if a student is under care of a Threat Assessment Team the transferring team is responsible to ensure continuity of services until the receiving school's team evaluates the student.
- Students referred for mental health services must commence treatment within 45 days. School based treatment must begin within 15 days and community treatment within 30 days.
- Consider targeted mental health case management for people in 13 to 25 age range.
- School districts should coordinate mental health services with community providers. (Pending, but law now permits referrals by school providers to community-based providers).

Prevention

- Created FortifyFL app as a mobile suspicious activity reporting tool and requires that all Florida schools promote the app.
- Every school in the state is required to have a Behavioral Threat Assessment Team. The team is required to have certain members, including a law enforcement officer.
- FLDOE will provide all districts a standardized behavioral threat assessment instrument and develop an on-line threat assessment database.
- Required the development of an Integrated Data Repository and Social Media Monitoring tool.
- Makes it a felony to threaten to kill someone without the previous “transmission” requirement.

School Hardening

- Every classroom must have a designated safe area or hard corner.
- Require that all gates to school campuses are closed and locked. When open the gates must be staffed. (Pending. Survey shows compliance in 59/67 districts.)
- All campuses should have single ingress and egress points. (Pending)
- Each classroom door should have an immediately available opaque covering to block the line of sight from the outside. (Pending)
- Every school should have a policy requiring that classroom doors be locked when occupied.
- All law enforcement agencies in Broward County should have live, real time access to cameras in all Broward County schools. (Pending. BSO has access and access is pending by other agencies.)
- Every school must have an effective communication system through which all personnel may transmit and receive threat notifications. (Pending. Survey shows some compliance but still pending in many schools).
- Required annual physical site security assessment of every school in the state, and report to DOE using the Florida Safe School Assessment Tool (FSSAT). In addition to the school specific assessment and report, a separate districtwide report is required annually.
- Established School Hardening and Harm Mitigation Workgroup. The workgroup must be comprised of school security subject matter experts and the workgroup must submit a report with recommendations to DOE by August 1, 2020.

Training / Drills

- Every school must conduct monthly active assailant drills.
- Every school district and charter school must adopt an active shooter response plan and all school personnel must be trained on the plan.
- All school active assailant policies must make clear that all staff are empowered to initiate an active shooter response.

Discipline Policy / Diversion Program

- School district “zero tolerance” policies cannot apply to petty acts, except acts of violence, but when a student commits more than one misdemeanor the Threat Assessment Team must consult with law enforcement to determine if the act should be “reported” to law enforcement.
- Include school diversion programs under the same auspices as community juvenile diversion programs. (Not completed but DJJ report just issued.)

Broward Sheriff’s Office

- BSO should change its active assailant response policy from “may” to “shall,” requiring that deputies enter an active shooter situation to stop the threat.
- BSO should increase the frequency and quality of its active assailant response training.

Radio / Communications / 911

- Law enforcement agencies throughout Florida should be required to have radio interoperability in each county and with surrounding jurisdictions.
- Police agencies should be required to share primary patrol radio channels with other agencies
- All 911 centers should have direct radio communication with all first responder agencies in their service area.

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS)

- BCPS should conduct an internal investigation into the actions and inactions of AP Jeff Morford (mishandling of the Cruz threat assessment), Principal Ty Thompson and others. (Pending).
- Require that all school personnel report suspicious incidents to a school administrator, that the incidents be tracked, and their disposition documented.
- BCPS should evaluate its threat assessment process.

Florida Department of Education

- Every school district is required to have a School Safety Specialist to oversee school safety in the district.
- Created the Office of Safe School (OSS) within the Department of Education (DOE). OSS is responsible for compliance and oversight of all school safety and security matters throughout the state.
- Establish a workgroup to recommend FERPA changes. (Pending. The DOE analysis was just completed.)
- Require mandatory use of the Florida Safe School Assessment Tool (FSSAT) by all districts and schools.
- Authorizes the FLDOE commissioner to oversee and require compliance with all Florida school safety laws including completion and submission of the FSSAT.
- FL DOE commissioner and State BOE now has sanction authority to ensure compliance with all mandated school safety requirements.
- CJSTC should require single officer response training. CJSTC has not acted on this but FDLE has created the training. (Pending.)