

June 7, 2004

Commissioner Jim Horne
Florida Department of Education
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Dear Commissioner Horne:

As required by Florida Statutes, Section 229.8348, I have enclosed the annual safety and security review for Volusia County Schools. This report was presented to the School Board of Volusia County on June 1, 2004. The Board adopted its findings and recommendations on that date.

I believe that Volusia County Schools continues to operate a safety and security program that is effective and cost efficient. Our security certification process provides comprehensive plans and procedures that promote the safety and security of students and staff. We will continue to modify and enhance the process in the coming year. We would certainly welcome comments or suggestions you may have.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Smith, D.Ed
Superintendent of Schools

MAS/res

DATE: June 1, 2004

TO: School Board Members
Superintendent Margaret A. Smith

FROM: Fred Miller
Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services
Russ Schaeffer
Director of Student Assignments

SUBJECT: Safety and Security Best Practices Review

The 2001 Legislature created Section 229.8348, Florida Statutes (Safety and Security Best Practices). Specifically, the statute states:

- (1) The "Safety and Security Best Practices" developed by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability and approved by the Commissioner of Education shall be reviewed annually by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability and the Partnership for School Safety and Security established in Section 229.8347, Florida Statutes and each entity shall make recommendations to the Commissioner of Education for the addition, revision, or deletion of best practices.
- (2) Each school district shall use the Safety and Security Best Practices to conduct a self-assessment of the school district's current safety and security practices. Based on these self-assessment findings, the superintendent of each school district shall provide recommendations to the school board which identify strategies and activities that the school district should implement in order to improve school safety and security.
- (3) By July 1st of each year, each school board must receive the self-assessment results at a publicly noticed school board meeting to provide the public an opportunity to hear the school board members discuss and take action on the report findings. Each superintendent shall report the self-assessment results and school board action to the Commissioner of Education within 30 days following the school board meeting.

In accordance with the requirements listed above, Volusia County Schools required that each of its schools complete a security certification audit. This process, outlined in the Security Certifications Standards, required the schools to be in compliance with 57 identified standards in the areas of Training and Implementation, Violence Prevention, Emergencies and Disasters, Student and Staff Protections, Physical Plant and Community Involvement. This process, developed by Volusia County Schools, continues to be listed on the Office of Safe Schools-School-Best Practices website. The Department of Education's Emergency planning Standards for Florida's Schools were developed from the Volusia County's Security Standards.

A summary outlining the results of Volusia County's certification audits conducted in the 2003-2004 school year is included in this report. In addition to the individual school audits, the district security team reviewed and completed the OPPAGA self-assessment document for each of its 29 Best Practices from a systemic perspective. The results of this review are also included in your materials.

FINDINGS:

The district security team determined that the District was in compliance with its Security Certification Process and all Best Practice Indicators with only the following exceptions:

- **Security Audits**

Six schools did not successfully complete and/or submit their self-audit materials by the October 31st deadline. All 30 schools receiving a District Audit were found to be in compliance after submitting corrections for deficiencies found by the District Audit Team. Due to staffing limitations the district audits were not completed until February 23, 2004. With one exception, all schools scheduled for a District Audit had indicated their readiness prior to the October 31, 2004 deadline.

- **OPPAGA Best Practices for Safety and Security**

Safety Planning

10.b.”The district has blueprints of each educational facility readily available for review during an emergency

Although the district does not have blueprints for each facility, due to extensive remodeling of some facilities over the years, we do have floor plans and maps which clearly show the campus buildings, entrance and egress, fenced areas, out buildings, electrical and mechanical areas and the school’s position to access streets and intersections. The State Office of Safe Schools has determined that we do indeed meet the spirit of this “Best Practice.” However, F.S. 1013.01 directs each district to provide to the law enforcement and fire department a copy of the floor plans for each facility by October 1 of each year. Our current deadline for completion of the security process, including plans to emergency agencies is October 31st of each year.

Safety Planning

11. The district’s Master Plan for In-Service Training identifies district and school personnel training needs and provides for appropriate levels of safety training, including classroom management and violence and alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs training, for all appropriate personnel.

Although the district does not have all elements of this indicator in the master plan, all elements are in progress. The district security audit serves as a major training exercise for the school's entire faculty and staff. Training in the form of an annual workshop has been incorporated into the Master Plan for In-Service Training Plan. Teachers at each grade level are not currently required to have in-service as outlined above, however, training is available to schools participating in the Volusia Behavioral Initiative.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Schools which were not in full compliance with the district's security certification process during the 2003-2004 school year shall be required to complete a successful district security certification audit by October 1, 2004. Schools must be prepared for emergencies as early as possible in the school year. Accordingly, all schools shall be required to complete their self-audit, or be prepared for their district audit by October 1, 2004. Those schools on the self-audit cycle shall, at some point during the school year, receive a site visit from district staff who will check identified standards and perform a mock drill.
- Although maps and floor plans are made available to Law Enforcement and Fire Services, these plans and other relevant documents shall be submitted prior to October 1st of each year, in accordance with State Statute.

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- Although the district security audit serves as a major training exercise for the school's entire staff and an annual workshop has been incorporated into the Master Plan for in-service training, additional in-service components need to be developed. The director of student assignments will continue to work with other departments and Staff Development to incorporate security training into existing training modules.

In summary, Volusia County Schools has a safety and security program that is effective and cost efficient in meeting its security needs. Our security certification process provides comprehensive plans and procedures that promote the safety and security of students and staff. We will continue to modify and enhance the process in the coming school year. The recommendation is made to the Superintendent that she accept the findings of this report and that she request that the Board act favorably upon the recommendations provided herein.

Efficiency and Effectiveness

1. The district has established and implemented accountability mechanisms to ensure the performance, efficiency, and effectiveness of the safety and security program.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
a. The district has clearly stated goals and outcome-based, measurable, objectives for the program that reflect the intent (purpose) of the program and address the major aspects of the program's purpose and expenditures.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The district uses appropriate performance and cost-efficiency measures and interpretive benchmarks to evaluate the school safety and security program and uses these in management decision making. ^{1,2}	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The district regularly conducts an assessment of performance and cost of the safety program and analyzes the potential cost savings of alternatives, such as outside contracting and privatization. ³	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
The Volusia County School's Security Certification Process has been cited by the Florida Department of Education as a resource available to help other school districts conduct their self-assessments.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Continue to modify process as necessary

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None, ongoing

¹ This means that in budgeting and shifting resources the district considers several factors including goals, objectives, critical safety needs, and past performance of safety initiatives.

² Performance measures should include appropriate comparisons with peer districts in areas such as safety and discipline incidents, etc.

³ This assessment would include examining whether the overall safety program and individual safety initiatives (such as DARE or Crime Watch) are achieving the outcomes they are expected to achieve.

Efficiency and Effectiveness

2. The district ensures the accuracy of its discipline and safety and security related data and reports accurate data the Department of Education.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
a. The district and its schools have a process in place to collect, revise, and update the appropriate data for the School Environmental Safety Incident Report (SESIR) system. ⁴	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The district and its schools have a process in place to collect, revise, update and ensure the accuracy of the discipline data.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The district has established and implemented strategies to ensure the reliability of SESIR, discipline, and other safety and security program data.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

ss. 1006.09(8) and 1006.13(3), *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)

Volusia County Schools conducts an annual workshop for all school administrators regarding SESIR reporting. Print out are distributed to all schools on a quarterly basis. Volusia County Security Standard 198 requires principals to report SESIR data in an accurate manner. At the time of the security audit SESIR information is reviewed. Comparisons to similar schools and trends over time are reviewed.

Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Continue to stress the importance of accurate reporting.

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

No fiscal impact. Ongoing

⁴ The district uses the state approved reporting form if available. If the state forms are not available, the district develops its own form based on some standardized criteria such as the Uniform Crime Reports.

Efficiency and Effectiveness

3. The district regularly reviews the organizational structure and staffing levels of the safety and security program and minimizes unnecessary administrative layers and processes.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
a. The district has a process in place to determine the staffing levels necessary to ensure that staff can respond to safety crises.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. On at least an annual basis, the district uses applicable comparisons and/or benchmarks and reviews the program's organizational structure and staffing levels to minimize administrative layers and processes.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The program structure includes reasonable lines of authority and spans of control given the responsibilities of each organizational unit.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. In conducting its staffing review, the district obtains broad stakeholder input.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. The district reports organizational structure and administrative staffing review findings in writing and distributes these findings to school board members.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
The Volusia County School's Security Certification Process requires that each school have an identified crisis team (VCS077) which can respond to all emergencies. Each team member is required to have one or two back-ups (two at secondary schools). The annual review an mock drill ensure that individuals are identified and that they properly execute their assigned duties. On an annual basis individuals are assigned to the District Audit Team. This assignment is in addition to their normal job duties and , therefore, minimize administrative layers in the security process. The District reports the organizational structure of the District and school based security teams to the Board in the annual security report. This report is also provided to a variety of community stakeholders.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Continue to evaluate the organizational structure and necessary staffing levels of the security program.

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

Safety Planning

4. The district has implemented a school safety plan that includes districtwide emergency and safety procedures and identifies those responsible for them.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
a. The district has written school improvement plan(s) that includes districtwide school safety goals and procedures to ensure that students are in orderly, disciplined classrooms conducive to learning.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The district has implemented a comprehensive school safety plan that establishes emergency and safety procedures for school and district employees and students to follow. At a minimum, the plan addresses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the evaluation of the principal’s performance regarding school safety, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the plan at the school level, and coordinating with local law enforcement and the Department of Juvenile Justice; ⁵ • the roles and responsibilities of the school principal and other administrators, teachers, and other school personnel for restoring, if necessary, and maintaining a safe, secure, and orderly school environment; • the roles and responsibilities of the transportation staff for restoring, if necessary, and maintaining a safe, secure, disciplined, and orderly bus environment; • the goals and objectives of the school resource officers, if any; • the mechanisms for identifying and serving the needs of students most at risk for engaging in disruptive and disorderly behavior; • arrangements to work with local emergency officials; ⁶ • safety issues and policies at school-sponsored events; ⁷ and • processes by which the district will instruct parents and the local community as to how to respond to an emergency situation. ⁸ 	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

ss. 1001.42(16)a, 1006.10, and 1002.20(22), *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Volusia County Schools maintains a Security Certification Process which requires every school within the District to meet 58 standards regarding safety and security. Those standards which specifically support those items in "b." above are: VCS077 requiring each school having trained critical incident command, VCS100 requiring schools to extend their security	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

⁵Principals may be evaluated on criteria such as the school climate report and school incident reports.

⁶ Including, but not limited to, law enforcement, fire department, emergency management, hospital, mental health, health and social services agencies, court officials and the media.

⁷Such as when students are off campus at official school events.

⁸Parents and the community should be provided this information prior to an emergency through such mechanisms as newsletters and the district’s website.

Safety Planning

procedures to school transportation and to school sponsored events, VCS152 requiring joint efforts between school administrators and student transportation in maintaining safety and security and VCS012 which requires schools to maintain specific written plans that specify emergency procedures for situations involving weapon-use, hostage situations, hazardous materials, toxic chemicals, weather and other emergency situations.

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Update Security Standards and site plans on an annual basis.

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

Safety Planning

5. The district develops and maintains its school safety plan and emergency response procedures with stakeholder input.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
a. A broad cross-section of stakeholders including parents, community representatives, local emergency agencies, teachers, staff and students were involved in developing the comprehensive school safety plan and emergency procedures.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The comprehensive school safety plan and emergency procedures have been shared with appropriate emergency response agencies. ^{9*}	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The comprehensive school safety plan and emergency procedures have been distributed to designated administrators and staff. ^{10*}	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. The comprehensive school safety plan and emergency procedures are reviewed and revised annually or more often if events warrant.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

s. 119.071, *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Volusia County Security Certification Standards pg.3 (B. Development) explains that the standards used in this process were developed in accordance with "Best Practices" developed by OPPAGA, various State and Federal Guides, and the Volusia County Sheriff's Department, the Office of Emergency Management, the Volusia County Chiefs' of Police Association, The DOE Partnership for School Safety and Security, as well as input from various organizations and groups supporting our schools. Plans have been distributed to staff and cooperating agencies.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Annual Review and update

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

^{9*} Emergency response agencies may include the fire department, police department, hospitals, social service, and health agencies.

¹⁰ In accordance with s. 119.071 *F.S.*, the district should take steps to ensure the confidentiality of security-related information. The district should identify those administrators and staff directly responsible for emergency response procedures, such as principals and school resource officers, and ensure that they have received copies of the safety plans. Districts may choose to disclose descriptive information regarding the safety and security plans to teachers, advisory councils, and the public. However, the district must still protect sensitive security information so as not to compromise the district's safety efforts.

Safety Planning

6. The district conducts an annual review of all relevant health and safety issues for each educational facility.¹¹

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	Not Started
a. The district ensures that each educational facility conducts an assessment of the safety hazards faced at that facility. ¹²	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. A certified fire safety inspector conducts an annual fire safety review of all educational and ancillary plants to ensure compliance with Florida law.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. An annual casualty safety review of all educational and ancillary plants is conducted to ensure compliance with Florida law and all deficiencies are corrected within a reasonable period. ¹³	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. An annual review is conducted to determine whether educational facilities comply with the Florida Building Code.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

ss. 1006.07(6), 1013.12(1)(b), 1013.12(2)(b), and 1013.12(2)(c), *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In Progress	Not Started
Volusia County Schools conducts annual safety inspections from its Facilities Department. Volusia County Security Standard VCS195 requires that each school be in full compliance at the time of their security audit. VCS188 require schools to meet the requirements of SRFF, Fire, Sanitation and Safety Codes. An annual safety check is required from local Law enforcement and the local fire department. During SY 2002-2003, the District is conducting four separate surveys. Three for each Middle and High School. They are: Youth Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Communities That Care Survey and The Florida Youth Survey.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Annual Review

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

¹¹ Conducting this self-assessment does not meet the requirements of this practice.

¹² The safety assessment should include a review of the unique safety considerations at a given school site. In reviewing potential hazards, the district should consider those listed in Best Practices along with any others appropriate to that school.

¹³ Note that life-threatening deficiencies must be corrected immediately or the facility is withdrawn from use.

Safety Planning

7. The district has developed emergency response procedures.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
a. The district has developed a districtwide plan for potential attacks against school sites or students and incorporates the appropriate school responses in the emergency procedures checklist.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The district has procedures for contacting all schools simultaneously in the event of a districtwide emergency.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The district has an emergency crisis team available to each school that provides counseling and other support to aid in dealing with people's reactions, making the adjustment after the emergency, and re-entering the school environment.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. The district has developed a media response plan and distributed it to each educational facility and each support service administrator. At a minimum, the plan addresses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communicating necessary information to the media and parents;¹⁴ • identifying established separate staging areas (e.g., specified locations) for media and parents; and • providing guidelines on how to respond to media questions and interviews. 	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. The district ensures that all appropriate district personnel are familiar with the Statewide Policy for Strengthening Domestic Security in Florida Public Schools.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Volusia County Security Standards VCS001 and VCS0012 require that schools be prepared for potential critical incidents. Procedures must be clearly outlined in the school's manual. The District also provides a "Quick Reference Guide for Emergency Procedures to all staff. The manual further addresses communications with parents, the media and identified staging areas (VCS065, VCS066, VCS067, VCS087, VCS102, VCS112). The District Security Office has the ability to contact all schools via radio in the event of a district-wide emergency. Standard VCS014 requires schools to be familiar with the District Crisis Team that aids in dealing with an after-crisis event.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Annual Review and Update

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

¹⁴Necessary information should include where parents should go or whom they should contact to find out about their children and where to get further information.

Safety Planning

8. The district has provided each school with an emergency checklist.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
a. A checklist that explains step-by-step emergency procedures is readily available in every classroom. The emergency situations include, at a minimum, ¹⁵ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • weapons-use and hostage situations; • terrorist acts; • bomb threats; • hazardous materials or toxic chemical spills; • weather emergencies including hurricanes, tornadoes, and severe storms; and • exposure as a result of a manmade emergency. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The emergency checklist includes emergency contact numbers and provisions for backup communication with faculty, support service administrators, and emergency agencies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The emergency checklist includes evacuation, lockdown, and shelter-in-place procedures developed with school transportation personnel, the fire marshal, law enforcement agencies, and other local agencies as appropriate. ¹⁶	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

s. 1006.07(4), *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Each school employee receives a copy of the school's security manual (VCS001). Training is provided to all staff with a special effort to insure that substitutes and student teachers know security procedures. A "Quick Reference Guide" is provided in the classrooms. Emergency contact numbers and backups for the critical incident team are provided at each school (VCS007). Each school has identified an evacuation site and discussed this site/process with the appropriate authority and with Student Transportation (VCS066, VCS065, VCS067, VCS152).	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Annual Update

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

¹⁵ Schools cannot have lists for every possible emergency. However, to be comprehensive, the plan should address other issues such as suicide threats/acts; bomb threats; out-of-control person/student; fighting; sexual assault; health emergency; serious injury; homicide of student; child abuse; trespassing; exposure to blood-borne pathogens; armed robbery; removal/attempted removal of a student; and utility emergency.

¹⁶ In the event of an evacuation, schools should have separate areas for student assembly, parent request/release, and media operations.

Safety Planning

9. The district and each school regularly practice emergency responses based on potential safety concerns at each site.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
a. The district school board has developed and implemented procedures for emergency drills in accordance with state law.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The district uses its annual self-assessment to identify the potential hazards for each educational facility and has developed and implemented procedures for practicing responses to identified hazards. ¹⁷	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The district has implemented procedures for verifying the required and planned emergency drills have been conducted.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

s. 1006.7(4)(a), *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Volusia County Security Standard VCS027 requires that Mock Crisis Drills are conducted each school year and must be appropriately documented. A mock drill is also observed at the time of the District Security Audit.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Annual review of mock drills

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

¹⁷ This will include fire drills, but should also include responses to any other hazards identified in Best Practice 6.0

Safety Planning

10. The district provides emergency response agencies with floor plans and blueprints as appropriate

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
a. The district provides floor plans of each educational facility to local law enforcement agencies and fire departments.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The district has blueprints of each educational facility readily available for review during an emergency.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

ss. 1013.01 and 1013.13, *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Volusia County's Security Certification Standard VCS082 requires that detailed maps are provided to local Law Enforcement and Fire Agencies. The maps must clearly show the campus buildings, entrance and egress, fenced areas, out buildings, electrical and mechanical areas and the school's position to access streets and intersections.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Although the district currently provides maps and diagrams to emergency agencies, our current time lines to do so exceeds those outlined in s.1013.01. It is recommended that the deadline for completing security audits be moved to October 1st of each year.

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

Requesting implementation of an October 1st deadline for the 2005 school year.

Safety Planning

11. The district's Master Plan for In-Service Training identifies district and school personnel training needs and provides for appropriate levels of safety training, including classroom management and violence and alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs training, for all appropriate personnel.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
a. The district has a process in place and has identified the training required for all types of school staff as well as the staff that require specialized safety training and incorporates those needs in its Master Plan for In-Service Training. ^{18, 19} This training should include classroom management and violence and alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs training for appropriate personnel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The district's required training in school-wide discipline, classroom management, conflict resolution, and other safety training components are included in the district's Master Plan for In-service Training.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The district reviews and uses the relevant training opportunities provided by the Department of Education and other appropriate organizations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. School principals can demonstrate that staff has received training based on the needs identified in the Master Plan for In-Service Training, the school's safety assessment, and the staff members' roles and responsibilities. ²⁰	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. The district supplies trained personnel with the appropriate safety equipment. ²¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Teachers at each grade level are provided in-service training to teach students positive social skills and violence prevention, conflict resolution, and communication/decision making skills.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

ss. 1012.98 (4)(b)4. and 1012.98(4)(b)5., *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

a). The district security audit serves as a major training exercise for the school's entire faculty and staff. Security training in the form of an annual workshop has been incorporated in the Master Plan for in-service training. Additional in-service components will be developed for the master in-service plan in the coming year. b). School-wide discipline, classroom management are currently not a requirement but an option for schools participating in the Volusia Behavioral Initiative. c). The

¹⁸ Training should include both instructional and non-instructional staff as well as substitute teachers and bus drivers. Districts may want to establish the minimum number working days a substitute must have before being provided with training.

¹⁹ Specialized training may include suicide prevention and responses for specific emergency situations as outlined in the emergency checklist in Best Practices.

²⁰ Depending on their duties, staff training can include emergency planning and intervention, classroom management, conflict resolution, CPR and first aid, the use of life-saving equipment, sexual harassment and abuse, and the early warning signs of violence, to the personnel identified in 1a.

²¹ This includes equipment such as first aid kits, fire extinguishers, or portable defibrillators.

Safety Planning

district currently reviews the relevant training opportunities provided by the Department of Education, however, these opportunities need to have a broader circulation and participation by school level personnel. d). Security training is currently being given to school staff by principals based upon the district's security standards and security audit workbook. e). First aid kits, fire extinguishers are on each campus. A listing of staff trained in CPR is posted on all campuses. Portable defibrillators are being distributed to selected schools. f). Teachers at each grade level are not currently required to have in-service as outlined. However, training is available to schools participating in the Volusia Behavior Initiative.

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

Largely the individual departments provide training outlined in the Master In-service Plan. The district does not have a full time person devoted to security functions. Formalized district training is limited to the security audit exercise and the annual workshop. Should the district elect to employ a full time security director, that individual could provide a more formalized approach to security training.

Discipline Policies and Code of Student Conduct

12. The district and each school have a code of student conduct based on stakeholder input and revise on an annual basis.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
a. The school district is in compliance with relevant laws and regulations regarding discipline policies, including the code of student conduct. ²²	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The district school board and school administrators annually review discipline policies and revise those policies with input from teachers, staff, parents, and students.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The code of student conduct is clearly written and avoids the use of technical terminology.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Parents are an integral part of the student discipline procedures and actions. They are made aware of expectations of students and are informed of changes in a timely manner.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Each year the discipline policies are clearly and thoroughly communicated to students, parents, and other stakeholders. ²³	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

ss. 1006.07(2) and 1006.07(2)(c), *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
The Student Code of Conduct is reviewed annually by a committee of teachers, staff, parents, students, union representatives, police officers and others. In its development the Code is also presented to various parent groups and the District Advisory Committee. The Volusia County Schools' Security Certification procedures, (VCS047) the Code is covered thoroughly in assemblies and /or individual classes. The Code is sent home with each student for parents' review; a signed receipt is returned to the school.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Annual review and update

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

²² This includes laws and regulations such as respect for authority, respect for school property, respect for others, daily attendance, use of obscenities, and harming or demeaning others.

²³ This can be done by sending student handbooks to parents and posting to the school and district websites.

Discipline Policies and Code of Student Conduct

13. The district's code of student conduct and other policies provide clear procedures for handling disciplinary actions.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
a. The district, in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, promotes and enforces a zero tolerance policy for crime, substance abuse, and victimization that requires the district to report all violations subject to Florida law to a local law enforcement agency.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Alternatives to suspension and expulsion have been built into the disciplinary policy and are appropriately and consistently used.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The district has a process in place to relocate students who are regularly dismissed from their classroom.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Disciplinary policies include statements regarding anti-harassment, anti-bullying, and anti-violence policies and due process rights in accordance with state and federal laws.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Disciplinary policies include procedures regarding interviewing students by law enforcement agencies and the Department of Children and Families.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Disciplinary policies include procedures governing locker searches.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. The district's discipline policies are consistent with the state and federal requirements for students with disabilities.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

ss. 1006.09(9) and 1006.13(3), *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
The District maintains a zero tolerance policy regarding crime. All violations are reported to Law Enforcement as outlined in the Code of Conduct and in the SRO contract. Alternatives to suspension are provided in the Code as are anti-bullying, anti-violence policies and the policies concerning Exceptional Student Education. The Security Procedures manual provides for interviews by cooperating agencies (VCS107) and locker searches.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

School Climate and Community Outreach

14. The district has a process in place to minimize danger to students from community members, staff, or other students, and minimize danger to teachers from students.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	N	In Progr ess	N/
a. The district requires each student to disclose at registration legally required information regarding the student's prior disciplinary history of expulsions, arrest resulting in a charge, and juvenile justice actions. ²⁴	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The district requires all school personnel to report to the principal or the principal's designee any suspected unlawful use, possession, or sale by a student of any controlled substance.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The district uses available information to track charges and convictions of students and employees from within the district as well as other school districts. ^{25, 26}	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. The district has a policy to encourage and facilitate principals, or their designees, to regularly monitor websites that identify registered sex offenders who reside in the vicinity of their school community. ²⁷	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. The district school board outlines the standards for use of reasonable force by school personnel that complies with relevant state laws in order to maintain an orderly environment.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. The district school board, superintendent, and principal fully support the authority of each teacher and school bus driver to remove disobedient, disrespectful, violent, abusive, uncontrollable, or disruptive students from the classroom and the school bus and the school board, superintendent, and principal have the authority to place such students in an alternative educational setting, when appropriate and available. ²⁸	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

²⁴ The student should be given the opportunity to provide his/her account of the incident(s) and this should be included in the student's file. All such information should be kept confidential and disclosed only to those individuals specifically required by law.

²⁵ Charges and convictions tracked should be limited to felonies, abuse of a minor, and sale or possession of a controlled substance.

²⁶ Agencies that should be consulted for this information include the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, other appropriate law enforcement agencies, state attorneys, the courts, and the Department of Education.

²⁷ The information regarding sexual offenders, such as photographs, should be shared with bus drivers, teachers, front office staff, custodial staff, and cafeteria staff.

²⁸ The policy should allow a teacher to send a student to the principal's office to maintain effective discipline in the classroom and to recommend an appropriate consequence consistent with the district code of student conduct. In the event that the principal does not employ the teacher's recommended consequence (or a more serious disciplinary action) if the student's history of disruptive behavior warrants it, the principal should consult with the teacher prior to taking a lesser disciplinary action.

School Climate and Community Outreach

- g. Each school has established a process to determine placement of a student when a teacher withholds consent to the return of a student to the teacher's class. Each school principal has notified each teacher in that school about the availability, the procedures, and the criteria for the placement review committee as outlined in s. 1003.32, *F.S.*²⁹

Related Statutes and Rules

ss. 1006.07(1)(a), 1006.08(2), 1006.09(8), 1006.11, 1006.13, 1012.799, 1003.31, and 1003.32, *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)

All students complete an entry form regarding disciplinary/arrest history. The Code of Conduct requires notifications regarding all suspected law violations. The District has a Court Liaison who tracks the arrests and convictions of students. Employee arrests are also reported to the District. VCS035 addresses sex offenders and requires principals to be aware of those in their zone. VCS127 limits the use of physical force to instances of self-protection and the protection of students.

Ye	N	In	N/
s	o	Progr	A
		ess	
X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

²⁹ As part of this process, the principal reports on a quarterly basis to the district school superintendent and district school board each incidence of a teacher's withholding consent for a removed student to return to the teacher's class and the disposition of the incident, and the superintendent annually reports these data to the Florida Department of Education.

School Climate and Community Outreach

15. Each school has a system in place to identify students that exhibit early warning signs of, or pose a threat of future violent behavior.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Y	N	In Progress	N/A
a. The district teaches instructional and non-instructional staff, and students the early warning signs associated with students who pose a threat of future violent behavior, how to recognize them, and what to do once they are suspected. ³⁰⁻³¹	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The district facilitates and encourages requests for assistance with students who exhibit early warning signs, or pose a threat of future violent behavior. ³²	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The district provides timely access to a team of specialists trained in evaluating behavioral and academic concerns and provides school staff training regarding such support.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Schools in the district have a Student Assistance Program/Team that provides assistance for students experiencing learning and/or behavioral difficulties.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. The district makes available appropriate psychological counseling for students exhibiting early warning signs, or posing a threat of future violent behavior.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. The district has procedures in place to maintain legal confidentiality of information regarding students exhibiting early warning signs, or posing a threat of future violent behavior. ³³	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. The district reviews and revises, as needed, the process to identify the warning signs of student violence.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

s. 1002.22(3)(d), *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Y	N	In Progress	N/A
School and district personnel are familiar with the district procedure for "Intent to Harm Self or Others" as outlined in VCS062. The district guidance office and district placement specialists provide access to specialists trained in evaluating behavioral and academic concerns. Referrals to community agencies are made as appropriate.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

³⁰Part of this training should explain that the warning signs are indicators that a student may need help and that it is imperative to avoid jumping to conclusions.

³¹Districts may not be able to explain ALL of the early warning signs but they should design a program to help parents, students, and staff understand the major signs.

³²This could range from guidance on what to do to help with actual intervention.

³³This may not be something the district can prove directly, but could be measured by the absence of confidentiality breaches.

School Climate and Community Outreach

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

School Climate and Community Outreach

16. The district identifies and implements parent and community outreach strategies to promote safety in the home and community.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Y	N	In Progress	N/A
a. The district has developed, in accordance with state law, a cooperative agreement with the Department of Juvenile Justice.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The district works proactively with students, parents, law enforcement, the community and the media to address safety and security issues.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The district works with local community agencies and businesses to identify ways to increase support in keeping schools safe. ³⁴	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. The district provides information to parents regarding the necessary school-entry health examinations and immunizations for all students.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. The district has crime watch programs and school safety hotline(s) in place and available in all schools.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. The district has procedures in place to inform students, parents, and other community partners about its crime watch programs and school safety hotline(s).	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. The district provides safety-related information, such as the safety and security self-assessment results, in an annual report to the public and other stakeholders. ³⁵	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

ss. 1003.22(1), 1003.22(4), 1006.13(3), and 1006.141, *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)

VCS052 directs schools to have on file a copy of the district's cooperative agreement with the Department of Juvenile Justice. VCS202 requires that parents and the community be involved in issues of school safety.

Y	N	In Progress	N/A
X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/ongoing

³⁴ This is accomplished through activities such as through public-private partnerships.

³⁵ Information must not be sanitized. It should include such information as incidents of crime and misbehavior, trends over time, comparisons to the community, and steps taken to improve safety.

Safety Programs and Curricula

17. The district fosters a positive learning climate and culture by assessing the school climate and implementing relevant scientifically based curricula and programs at each school.^{36*}

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
a. School climate surveys include questions relating to discipline, bullying, threats perceived by students, and other safety or security related issues.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Curricula and programs for improving the school culture and climate are incorporated into the classroom. The curricula and programs should address such issues as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pro-social skills; • character education; • conflict resolution; and • peer mediation. 	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Curricula and special programs on violence and drug prevention, health, safety, and security are available to students, school staff, and parents.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. The district regularly reviews the school climate at each school and revises, eliminates, or adds programs accordingly.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Middle and secondary students participate in scheduled administrations of standardized surveys of risk behaviors and situations such as the Florida Substance Abuse Youth Survey, the Florida Youth Tobacco Survey, and the Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the results are used in assessing prevention needs.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

ss. 1004.04 and 1004(b)(2), *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
A number of security standards address this Best Practice. VCS118 requires formal or informal polls used to measure school climate. Interviews are also conducted during the security audits VCS033 requires activities and programs which are designed to prevent harassment. VCS042 requires secondary school students to be trained in conflict resolution, mediation, or other violence prevention techniques.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

³⁶ Article IX, Section 1, Florida Constitution.

Safety Programs and Curricula

18. The district has an approved Safe and Drug-Free School Plan that has been developed with appropriate stakeholder input.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
a. The district has a district Safe and Drug-Free School (SDFS) advisory council or committee that participates in the development of the SDFS plan.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The district has an approved Safe and Drug-Free School (SDFS) plan and regularly reviews and updates the plan.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Coaches and athletes adhere to established policies prohibiting tobacco and drug, including alcohol, use.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. The district regularly reviews and revises, as needed, the safe and drug-free programs and publishes a performance review of the programs supported by safe and drug free schools funds. ³⁷	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
The District Safe and Drug-Free School plan documents compliance with this Best Practice. The plan is reviewed annually and the district publishes reviews of programs supported by SDFS funds. Minutes of the advisory committee meetings are also available.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

³⁷ As part of this review, the district should have performance-related data for each of these programs.

Safety Programs and Curricula

19. Based on the district’s prevention needs assessment process, the district implements scientifically based violence and drug prevention programs and curricula for each school. ^{38*}

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
a. The district reviews and makes available to its schools sources of violence and drug prevention and other safety-related programs and curricula. ³⁹⁻⁴⁰	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The school board and each school adopt violence and drug prevention, safety and health curricula and programs designed to reduce violence, increase safety, and reduce the number of violence risk factors. ⁴¹⁻⁴²	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The district and schools involve students in the planning and implementation of violence and drug prevention programs and other student efforts that contribute to school safety.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. The district has considered a dress code or school uniform policy. ⁴³	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Students at each grade level are taught violence prevention, conflict resolution, and communication/decision making skills.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. In developing, implementing, and maintaining its safe and drug-free schools programs, the district collaborates with other governmental and private agencies as needed. ⁴⁴	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. The district regularly reviews the performance of its intervention programs and revises, eliminates, or adds programs accordingly	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

s. 1003.32, *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
School Board Policy 208, VCS033, VCS034, VCS042, “Peaceable Place,” “Project Harmony” Volusia County Bullying Initiative, Annual Review of the Code of Student Conduct, and consults with the District Guidance Office document compliance with this “Best Practice.”	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

³⁸ These programs should be designed to improve overall student performance, reduce risk factors and warning signs, prevent bullying or harassment, and improve student behavior.

³⁹ This includes programs such as “Blueprints” from the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Resource Center. NOTE: There are many sites for these kinds of programs, so the district may use something else.

⁴⁰ Such sources would include the K-20 Education Safety Partnership’s electronic clearinghouse and the Department of Education’s Program Inventory.

⁴¹ These programs should be designed to ensure the safety of students, teachers, and administrators.

⁴² These include programs such as closed-campus lunches in high schools, structured playground activities, behavioral monitoring, behavioral counseling, student empowerment programs, extended day programs and school reorganizations, tutoring, mentors, and Saturday classes.

⁴³ Schools do not have to have a dress code, but they should be able to describe their reasoning if they have not adopted one. Dress code examples include prohibiting baggy pants, un-tucked shirts, overcoats and long jackets, and gang colors or symbols.

⁴⁴ The Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Education are examples of such agencies.

Safety Programs and Curricula

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

Safety Programs and Curricula

20. Each school has a system in place to identify, assess, and minimize the risk for students indicating threat of, or exhibiting suicidal behavior.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
a. The district teaches instructional and non-instructional staff warning signs associated with students who pose a risk for suicidal behavior.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The district facilitates and encourages requests for assistance with students who pose a risk for suicidal behavior.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The district provides timely access to professional staff trained to evaluate student risk for suicidal behavior and provides training and consultation for appropriate staff.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. The district has developed procedures for the appropriate management of students determined to be at risk for suicidal behavior, including supervision, duty to warn, and community-based referrals.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. The district has developed procedures for guiding the support of students re-entering the school environment following hospitalization, suicide attempt, or those surviving the suicide attempt of a peer.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
The District has issued all schools Crisis Intervention Manuals. These manuals are also located on the District's website. The District and schools maintain intent to harm procedures in accordance with VCS062. The District conducts QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) workshops for school staff. The District also maintains a Crisis Team available to all schools. For the 2003-2004 school year the district added a specific security standard to address the training of all staff in the warning signs of suicidal behavior.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

Facilities and Equipment

21. The district designs educational facilities and sites to enhance security and reduce vandalism through the use of “safe school design” principles.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
<p>a. The district incorporates Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in the maintenance, renovation, and construction of district educational facilities. CPTED principles include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • natural access and control of schools and campuses; • natural surveillance of schools and campuses both from within the facility and from adjacent streets by removing obstructions or trimming shrubbery; • school and campus territorial integrity, such as securing courtyards, site lighting, building lighting; • audio and motion detection systems covering ground floor doors, stairwells, offices and areas where expensive equipment is stored; • exterior stairs, balconies, ramps, and upper level corridors around the perimeter of buildings should have open-type handrails or other architectural features to allow surveillance; • open areas, such as plazas, the building's main entrance, parking lots, and bicycle compounds should be designed so they are visible by workers at work stations inside the buildings; and • designs that will promote the prevention of school crime and violence, such as exterior architectural features without footholds or handholds on exterior walls, tamper-proof doors and locks, and non-breakable glass or shelter window protection systems. Landscaping and tree placement should be designed so they do not provide access to roofs by unauthorized persons. Sections of schools commonly used after hours should be separated by doors or other devices from adjacent areas to prevent unauthorized access. Locks should be installed on roof hatches and slippery finishes should be applied to exterior pipes. 	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>b. The district can demonstrate that Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design and other appropriate safety features are incorporated into the design of all new</p>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

⁴⁵ CPTED design principles include natural surveillance of school grounds, access control, and territoriality. CPTED design features include, but are not limited to, controlled access entrances, fencing, sufficient entrances and exits, signage, and front desks having views of the entrance.

⁴⁶ Training in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design is available from the state's Department of Education.

Facilities and Equipment

construction. ⁴⁵ ⁴⁶

- | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| c. The district can demonstrate that whenever facilities are renovated, safety needs are assessed and safety designs are revised or added to the facility. ⁴⁷ | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. The district can demonstrate that facility maintenance incorporates principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. ⁴⁸ | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)

	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
The district site plans and building and construction plans document compliance with this Best Practice. Facilities planners/architects have completed the CPTED training.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

⁴⁷These needs and designs include lighting, break-proof doors, security systems, fencing, and window or door bars. Essentially, is safety reviewed and addressed as part of the renovation process?

⁴⁸Such as territoriality and ownership.

Facilities and Equipment

22. The district has procedures that govern access to each educational facility and its students and access is limited to authorized students and visitors.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In	
			Progress	N/A
a. Entrances to educational facilities are as limited as the physical setting will allow.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Each educational facility has a clearly marked central point for receiving all visitors. ⁴⁹	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Each educational facility has a procedure regarding the release of students to parents, guardians, or other persons. ⁵⁰	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Buildings are secured when unoccupied, but security devices shall not prevent egress from the building at any time. ⁵¹	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. There is a key control program to account for all keys to all buildings, rooms, and gates.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)

Volusia County Security standard VCS177 requires schools to limit entrance to the campus to the degree that the physical setting allows. VCS032 requires that schools have procedures limiting access to visitors. VCS097 requires schools to have one central point for receiving all visitors. VCS102 requires that schools have a procedure for the release of students to parents and guardians. VCS194 requires a key control program that accounts for all keys to buildings, rooms and gates.

Yes	No	In	
		Progress	N/A
X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

⁴⁹This will require signs throughout the school telling visitors where to check in and training staff to ensure that visitors check in at the appropriate location.

⁵⁰This would include procedures such as identification checks.

⁵¹This would include times the building is or should be unoccupied such as after being closed for the night.

Facilities and Equipment

23. The district ensures that playgrounds are properly constructed, maintained, and supervised so as to reduce the risk of injury.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In	
			Progress	N/A
a. The district follows US Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines and consults with other authorities regarding playground construction materials and regulations.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. District personnel conduct regular maintenance checks of playground equipment and documents conditions in need of repair.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The district identifies and corrects playground deficiencies in a timely manner.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Playground areas are supervised when children are present and using the areas during school hours.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)

Annual Safety inspections, monthly playground inspections and the District Playground Safety Committee document Best Practice. VCS117 requires adequate supervision of students.

Yes	No	In	
		Progress	N/A
X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

Facilities and Equipment

24. Each educational facility has appropriate equipment to protect the safety and security of property and records.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In	
			Progress	N/A
a. Each educational facility has a security system that was selected or designed with input from security professionals. ^{52, 53}	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The district can demonstrate that current security equipment is inspected and reviewed annually by safety and security professionals.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Each educational facility maintains evacuation and disaster recovery kits that include copies of all necessary records and as well as basic equipment, as required by district emergency response procedures. ^{54, 55}	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. The district ensures that school buses and other fleet equipment are adequately secured when not in use. ⁵⁶	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In	
			Progress	N/A
The district maintains a maintenance contract for security equipment repairs with ASA Inc. District security standard VCS188 requires annual safety review and full compliances with the Uniform Building Code. VCS092 requires that schools used as emergency shelters maintain detailed plans as well as equipments necessary for emergencies.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

⁵² This may include alarm systems as well as equipment such as fencing. Not all schools will require electronic security so the selection of security systems should be based on hazard analyses with input from security professionals.

⁵³ This would include professionals such as fire marshal, police, and security experts.

⁵⁴ One kit should be in the main office, but another should be kept at the opposite side of the site in case the office is inaccessible or damaged.

⁵⁵ This includes records such as of staff and student medical records, student and staff rosters, school floor plan, school safety plan, personnel trained in CPR, cellphone, first aid kit, emergency medicine, weather gear, and bullhorn.

⁵⁶ Bus compounds should have adequate fencing, lighting, or other security measures to ensure adequate access control.

Facilities and Equipment

25. The district provides appropriate safety equipment and information to prevent injuries to students and others.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In	
			Progress	N/A
a. Each educational facility is equipped with first aid kits and fire extinguishers.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The district has provided appropriate safety equipment in instructional areas with dangerous equipment or chemicals. ⁵⁷	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The district can demonstrate that students and school personnel are trained in the appropriate safety procedures for dealing with dangerous tools, equipment, or chemicals.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. The district supplies all necessary protective equipment to minimize the number of injuries related to athletic activities. ⁵⁸	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

s. 1006.063, *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)

District Security Standard VCS192 requires schools to correct any deficiency in the annual fire safety inspection as well as any deficiencies noted in the security audit. The Curriculum Safety Manual also documents compliance with this Best Practice.

Yes	No	In	
		Progress	N/A
X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

⁵⁷Dangerous equipment or chemicals includes machinery such as saws or drills for shop class, chemicals for chemistry classes, scalpels for biology, and so forth.

⁵⁸For example, the district ensures that athletes wear the proper protective equipment and are properly supervised during practices.

Facilities and Equipment

26. The district follows environmental and food safety health practices and regulations.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In	
			Progress	N/A
a. The district follows all appropriate food safety health practices and regulations.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The district documents that appropriate personnel have received information and materials pertaining to their safety-related duties, rights, and responsibilities under Florida law, federal law, and OSHA.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The district complies with all appropriate federal and state requirements for facility safety. ⁵⁹	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. The district maintains a copy of the state and local health regulations. All school sites have a copy of the local health regulations.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. The district distributes written emergency procedures and plans to each cafeteria site for reporting, investigating, and correcting the cause of incidents and these documents are available to all employees.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In	
			Progress	N/A
The following artifacts document compliance with this Best Practice: School Way Café Sanitation/Safety/Security manual, New Employee Checklist, VCS192 regarding inspections, Chapter 64-E-11, VCS001 and the school security manual.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

⁵⁹ Examples include EPA guidelines, Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Hazardous Communication Standards, federal and state regulations hazardous materials plans, Asbestos Hazardous Emergency Response Act rules, and other mandated environmental and safety issues, (i.e., Refrigerant Use and Disposal, Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security regulations).

Transportation

27. The district has procedures to create a safe and orderly process for students arriving at or leaving each school campus.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
a. School bus service driveways at each school meet the requirements of the Florida Building Code.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The district has procedures to ensure the safety of children arriving at each school or leaving each school campus, including those who walk, ride bicycles, ride in buses, or are passengers or drivers in private vehicles.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Whenever feasible existing schools are renovated to provide for separate drop-off and pick-up areas for school buses and parents' and other private passenger vehicles.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Whenever feasible existing schools are renovated to provide for separation of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. ^{60*}	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

ss. 1006.21, 1006.22, 1006.23, *F.S.*; Rules 6A-2.001 and 6A-3.0171(2)(e)2.b., *F.A.C.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Site/Construction Plans, Student Transportation Service Procedure Manual and District Transportation Manual along with observation document compliance with this Best Practice.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

^{60*}In general, 27c and 27d should be feasible except where prohibited by the physical structure of the school or county regulations.

Transportation

28. The district has implemented policies, procedures, and practices that ensure the safety of transported students.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
a. The district ensures that all new school buses purchased have an appropriate safety restraint system.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The district has procedures to ensure the safety of designated school bus routes and to ensure that bus stops are designated in the most reasonably safe locations. ⁶¹	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. All persons transporting students, including school personnel, charter school personnel, and contractors, are properly licensed, trained, and qualified.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. The district has adopted a safe driver plan that defines the threshold for unacceptable levels and types of violations by all persons transporting students and specifies consequences for those who exceed the threshold.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Each school principal ensures that all transported students receive instruction in safe riding practices and rules of conduct. ⁶²	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. The district clearly communicates, such as through a checklist, what steps district staff will take in response to transportation accidents or other transportation emergencies. ⁶³	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

ss. 316.6145, 1006.22(12)(c), and 1012.45, *F.S.*; Rules 6A-3.0141, 6A-3.0151, and 6A-3.0171, *F.A.C.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
State bid for buses, Safe Stop Criteria Procedure, STS Personnel Procedures Manual, Training Records, School Board Policy 505 and 208, VCS047, and STS Operating Procedure No. 15 document compliance with this Best Practice.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

⁶¹Procedures should include such requirements as timely reporting and identification of potential hazards by bus operators, reliable intake of reports of potential hazards by parents and other community members, physical reviews of each route and stop location by transportation personnel at least annually, and correction of agreed hazards.

⁶²Student training should include at least the following: safe practices while waiting for, boarding, and disembarking from the bus; safe behavior while riding in the bus; school bus evacuation procedures; safe behavior at railroad crossings; and use of safety restraints (if applicable).

⁶³District staff should include both bus drivers as well as other affected staff.

Transportation

29. School buses, including buses operated by schools, charter schools, and contractors, are inspected and maintained in accordance with state laws and state Department of Education rules.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
a. School bus operators perform pre-trip inspection of school bus safety items and correct deficiencies before buses are used to transport students.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. School bus inspections are performed at least each 30 school days, and inspectors are trained and certified, consistent with the required procedures and criteria in the <i>Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Manual</i> . ⁶⁴	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. District procedures for school bus repair, maintenance, and quality control ensure that buses are only returned to service to transport students when all safety and mechanical systems meet the requirements of the <i>Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Manual</i> .	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. The district uses a quality control process to review, on a selective basis, the routine servicing and repair work done on vehicles in connection with the 30-day inspections and confirm the completeness of the service record.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Statutes and Rules

s. 1006.22, *F.S.*, and Rules 6A-3.0171(2)(e) and 6A-3.0171(8), *F.A.C.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice? (Please provide explanation)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
STS Fleet Maintenance Procedure Manual, STS Operating Procedure # 01, Completed pre-trip inspection forms, STS Maintenance Procedure # 3-03 and 2-018 document compliance with this Best Practice.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

None/Ongoing

⁶⁴Staff should maintain a secure file that includes complete records of these inspections and all work done in connection with the inspections, confirming that all buses are inspected according to the established 30-day inspection schedule.