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Safe Schools Proposed Rules and Amendments

State Board of Education

August 23, 2023

Office of Safe Schools Rules for Approval

6A-1.0018 School Safety Requirements and Monitoring

- Removal of threat assessment (moving to 6A-1.0019)
- Removing outdated provisions related to emergency drills

6A-1.0019 Threat Management

- Florida Model behavioral threat management operational process and behavioral threat assessment instrument

6A-1.0020 Florida Safe Schools Canine Program

- Canine program process and forms



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Proposed Amendments - Rule 6A-1.0018 School Safety Requirements and Monitoring

Proposed Amendment

- Removes references to Threat Assessment and the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG).
- References the new requirements to report certain incidents to law enforcement per Rule 6A-1.0017, F.A.C.
- Removes expired emergency drill requirements
- Deletes CSTAG documents incorporated by reference.



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New Proposed Rule 6A-1.0019

Threat Management

Background

- Florida continues to be the **national leader** in protecting our students, teachers, and staff in our schools.
- In 2021 and 2022, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission identified opportunities to strengthen the current school-based threat assessment process.
- HB 543 required that FDOE develop a Florida-specific threat assessment instrument by August 1, 2023, and develop a statewide threat management operational process by December 1, 2023.
- A new statewide threat management system (portal) must be on-line by August 1, 2025.

What is NOT Changing

- Every school must have a school-based threat management team with at least four members.
- All school staff have responsibility to immediately report concerning behavior.
- Districts are responsible for all public schools within their district, including charter schools.
- Imminent threats are reported to law enforcement immediately.

Proposed Rule

- Sunsets current CSTAG model on December 31, 2023.
- Requires implementation of new Florida model beginning January 1, 2024.
- Provides for roles, responsibilities, timelines, parental notification requirements, and oversight.
- Builds on current practice of identifying and reporting threats by requiring ongoing monitoring and intervention.
- Incorporates Florida Threat Management Manual, Threat Assessment Instrument, and associated forms.

Threat Management Operational Process

Some highlights of the new threat management process:

1. Requirement that each district have a dedicated threat management coordinator - This was originally required in State Board Emergency Rule 6AER23-02.
2. Requirement for a district-based team in every district that will provide higher level guidance to the school-based teams for more serious matters.
3. Requirement for school-based threat management teams in every school.
4. Requires for the first time that a staff member with knowledge of the student of concern participate on each threat management team.

Threat Management Operational Process

5. Revised and simplified terminology: threats will be determined to be unfounded, or assigned a concern level of Low, Medium or High.
6. Structured intake process with initial review by the Chair of each school's threat management team.
7. Early summary disposition of cases by the Chair that should not go to the full school-based team – unfounded or low level cases which can be handled by alternative means without overloading the threat management system.
8. Implementation of an Intake and Disposition form to guide and track each case.

Threat Management Operational Process

9. New comprehensive Florida Model Instrument captures all information necessary to make an informed decision.
10. Required timeframes within which required tasks (intake, assessment, disposition decision, etc.) must be completed.
11. Required review and approval of team decisions by principals, district threat management coordinators – building new oversight and accountability measures.
12. Incorporates review of self-harm allegations.
13. Transforms the process from one of “threat assessment” to “threat management” through the creation of the Student Support and Management Plan.

Training

- All threat management teams at each school must be fully staffed before the start of the school year.
- District Threat Management Coordinators, district-based and school-based team members, and school principals must complete FDOE-approved training no later than December 31, 2023.



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New Proposed Rule 6A-1.0020

Florida Safe Schools Canine Program

Background

- Created by House Bill 543.
- Directs the Office of Safe Schools (OSS) to establish the Florida Safe Schools Canine Program to:
 - Designate a person, school, or business entity as a Florida Safe Schools Partner if they provide a monetary or in-kind donation to a law enforcement agency to purchase, train, or care for a firearm detection canine.
- The presence of firearm detection canines at school contributes to a safe school community, furthering a communitywide investment and engagement in school safety.

Proposed Rule

Safe Schools Canine Program process and forms:

- Eligibility for the Safe Schools Canine Partner designation
- Nomination and application processes
- Designation as a Safe Schools Canine Partner
- Use of the Partner logo
- Nomination form
- Application form



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