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A bill to be entitled An act relating to school safety; amending s. 943.082, F.S.; requiring the FortifyFL reporting tool to notify reporting parties that submitting false information may subject them to criminal penalties; providing that certain reports shall remain anonymous; amending s. 943.687, F.S.; revising the membership of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission; amending s. 985.12, F.S.; requiring law enforcement officers to have access to specified information by a certain date for specified purposes; amending s. 1001.11, F.S.; requiring the Commissioner of Education to oversee compliance with requirements relating to school safety and security; requiring the commissioner to take specified actions under certain circumstances relating to noncompliance; amending s. 1001.20, F.S.; requiring the Office of Inspector General to take specified actions for an investigation relating to noncompliance with school safety and security requirements under certain circumstances; authorizing the office to issue and serve certain subpoenas for specified purposes; authorizing the office to take specified actions relating to noncompliance with such subpoenas; amending s. 1001.212, F.S.; requiring the Office of Safe Schools to provide certain

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opportunities to charter school personnel; requiring such office to coordinate with specified entities to provide a specified tool for certain purposes and a model family reunification plan for certain purposes; amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the immediate termination of a charter school's charter; amending s. 1006.07, F.S.; requiring codes of student conduct to include provisions relating to civil citation or similar prearrest diversion programs for specified purposes; requiring codes of student conduct to include provisions relating to the assignment of students to school-based intervention programs; prohibiting participation in such programs from being entered into a specified system; authorizing certain procedures to include accommodations for specified drills; requiring district school boards and charter school governing boards, in coordination with local law enforcement agencies, to adopt a family reunification plan for specified purposes; providing requirements for members of a threat assessment team; amending s. 1006.12, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the duties of school safety officers; requiring the district school superintendent or charter school administrator to provide certain notifications relating to safe-school

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officers; requiring safe-school officers to complete a specified training; providing requirements for such training; requiring individuals to meet certain criteria before participating in specified training; providing requirements for such training; requiring school districts to provide charter schools with specified safe-school officers under additional circumstances; amending s.1006.1493, F.S.; requiring the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool to address policies and procedures relating to certain disasters; amending s. 1008.32, F.S.; authorizing the state board to direct a school district to suspend the salaries of specified individuals under certain circumstances relating to school safety; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; revising the mental health assistance allocation plans to include policies and procedures relating to certain behavioral health services available to such students; requiring schools districts to use specified services from certain teams; providing requirements for referrals to certain behavioral health services; providing effective dates.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Effective October 1, 2020, paragraph (c) is

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added to subsection (2) of section 943.082, Florida Statutes, to read:

943.082 School Safety Awareness Program.-

- (2) The reporting tool must notify the reporting party of the following information:
- (c) That, if following an investigation, it is determined that a person knowingly submitted a false tip through FortifyFL, the IP address of the device on which the tip was submitted will be provided to law enforcement agencies for further investigation and the reporting party may be subject to criminal penalties under s. 837.05. In all other circumstances, unless the reporting party has chosen to disclose his or her identity, the report must remain anonymous.

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 943.687, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

943.687 Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission.—

(2)(a) The commission shall convene no later than June 1, 2018, and shall be composed of 19 16 members. Six Five members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, six five members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and six five members shall be appointed by the Governor. From the members of the commission, the Governor shall appoint the chair. Appointments must be made by April 30, 2018. The Commissioner of the Department of Law Enforcement shall

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serve as a member of the commission. The Secretary of Children
and Families, the Secretary of Juvenile Justice, the Secretary
of Health Care Administration, and the Commissioner of Education
shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the commission.
Members shall serve at the pleasure of the officer who appointed
the member. A vacancy on the commission shall be filled in the
same manner as the original appointment $\underline{\text{and, to the maximum}}$
extent possible, achieve equal representation of school
district, law enforcement, and health care professionals.
Section 3. Paragraph (f) of subsection (2) of section
985.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
985.12 Civil citation or similar prearrest diversion
programs.—
(2) JUDICIAL CIRCUIT CIVIL CITATION OR SIMILAR PREARREST
DIVERSION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION, AND OPERATION.
(f) Each civil citation or similar prearrest diversion
program shall enter the appropriate youth data into the Juvenile
Justice Information System Prevention Web within 7 days after
the admission of the youth into the program. Beginning in fiscal
year 2021-2022, law enforcement officers must have field access
to civil citation and prearrest diversion information.
Section 4. Subsection (9) of section 1001.11, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:
1001.11 Commissioner of Education; other duties.—
(9) The commissioner shall oversee compliance with the

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requirements relating to school safety and security requirements of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act, chapter 2018-3, Laws of Florida, by school districts; district school superintendents; and public schools, including charter schools. Upon notification by the Office of Safe Schools that a district school board has failed to comply with the requirements relating to school safety and security, the commissioner shall require the district school board to withhold further payment of the salary of the superintendent as authorized under s. 1001.42(13)(b). Upon notification by the Office of Safe Schools that a charter school has failed to comply with the requirements relating to school safety and security, the commissioner must facilitate compliance by charter schools by recommending actions to the district school board pursuant to s. 1002.33. The commissioner must facilitate compliance to the maximum extent provided under law, identify incidents of noncompliance, and impose or recommend to the State Board of Education, the Governor, or the Legislature enforcement and sanctioning actions pursuant to s. 1008.32 and other authority granted under law. Section 5. Paragraph (e) of subsection (4) of section 1001.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 1001.20 Department under direction of state board.-The Department of Education shall establish the following offices within the Office of the Commissioner of Education which shall coordinate their activities with all other

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151 divisions and offices:

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Office of Inspector General.—Organized using existing resources and funds and responsible for promoting accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness and detecting fraud and abuse within school districts, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, and Florida College System institutions in Florida. If the Commissioner of Education determines that a district school board, the Board of Trustees for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, or a Florida College System institution board of trustees is unwilling or unable to address substantiated allegations made by any person relating to waste, fraud, or financial mismanagement within the school district, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, or the Florida College System institution, the office shall conduct, coordinate, or request investigations into such substantiated allegations. If the Commissioner of Education determines that a district school board is unwilling or unable to address substantiated allegations made by any person relating to compliance with the requirements relating to school safety and security, the office shall conduct, coordinate, or request investigations into such substantiated allegations. The office shall investigate allegations or reports of possible fraud or abuse against a district school board made by any member of the Cabinet; the presiding officer of either house of the Legislature; a chair of a substantive or appropriations

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committee with jurisdiction; or a member of the board for which an investigation is sought. The office shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to perform its duties and shall have all of its current powers, duties, and responsibilities authorized in s. 20.055. The office may issue and serve subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents, reports, answers, records, accounts, and other data in any medium. In the event of noncompliance with a subpoena or a subpoena duces tecum issued under this paragraph, the inspector general may petition the circuit court of the county in which the person subpoenaed resides or has his or her principal place of business for an order requiring the subpoenaed person to appear and testify and to produce documents, reports, answers, records, accounts, or other data as specified in the subpoena or subpoena duces tecum.

Section 6. Subsections (14) and (15) of section 1001.212, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (15) and (16), respectively, subsections (2), (6), and (8) are amended, and a new subsection (14) is added to that section, to read:

1001.212 Office of Safe Schools.—There is created in the Department of Education the Office of Safe Schools. The office is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education. The office shall serve as a central repository for best practices, training standards, and compliance oversight in all matters

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201	regarding school safety and security, including prevention
202	efforts, intervention efforts, and emergency preparedness
203	planning. The office shall:

- (2) Provide ongoing professional development opportunities to school district and charter school personnel.
- (6) Coordinate with the Department of Law Enforcement to provide a <u>unified search tool</u>, <u>known as the Florida School</u>

 <u>Safety Portal</u>, <u>centralized integrated data repository and data analytics resources</u> to improve access to timely, complete, and accurate information <u>integrating data</u> from, at a minimum, but not limited to, the following data sources by August 1, 2019:
 - (a) Social media Internet posts;
 - (b) Department of Children and Families;
 - (c) Department of Law Enforcement;
 - (d) Department of Juvenile Justice;
- (e) Mobile suspicious activity reporting tool known as FortifyFL;
- (f) School environmental safety incident reports collected under subsection (8); and
 - (q) Local law enforcement.

Data that is exempt or confidential and exempt from public records requirements retains its exempt or confidential and exempt status when incorporated into the centralized integrated data repository. To maintain the confidentiality requirements

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attached to the information provided to the centralized integrated data repository by the various state and local agencies, data governance and security shall ensure compliance with all applicable state and federal data privacy requirements through the use of user authorization and role-based security, data anonymization and aggregation and auditing capabilities. To maintain the confidentiality requirements attached to the information provided to the centralized integrated data repository by the various state and local agencies, each source agency providing data to the repository shall be the sole custodian of the data for the purpose of any request for inspection or copies thereof under chapter 119. The department shall only allow access to data from the source agencies in accordance with rules adopted by the respective source agencies and the requirements of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Justice Information Services security policy, where applicable.

(8) Provide technical assistance to school districts and charter school governing boards for school environmental safety incident reporting as required under s. 1006.07(9). The office shall collect data through school environmental safety incident reports on incidents involving any person which occur on school premises, on school transportation, and at off-campus, schoolsponsored events. The office shall review and evaluate school district reports to ensure compliance with reporting

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requirements. Upon notification by the department that a

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superintendent has failed to comply with the requirements of s. 1006.07(9), the district school board shall withhold further payment of his or her salary as authorized under s. 1001.42(13)(b) and impose other appropriate sanctions that the commissioner or state board by law may impose. (14) Develop, in coordination with the Division of Emergency Management, other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, fire and rescue agencies, and first responder agencies, a model family reunification plan for use by child care facilities, public K-12 schools, and public postsecondary institutions that are closed or unexpectedly evacuated due to a natural or man-made disaster. Section 7. Paragraph (c) of subsection (8) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 1002.33 Charter schools.-(8) CAUSES FOR NONRENEWAL OR TERMINATION OF CHARTER.-A charter may be terminated immediately if the sponsor sets forth in writing the particular facts and circumstances

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demonstrating indicating that an immediate and serious danger to

the health, safety, or welfare of the charter school's students

exists, that the immediate and serious danger is likely to

necessary. The sponsor's determination is subject to the

continue, and that an immediate termination of the charter is

procedures set forth in paragraph (b), except that the hearing

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may take place after the charter has been terminated. The sponsor shall notify in writing the charter school's governing board, the charter school principal, and the department of the facts and circumstances supporting the emergency termination if a charter is terminated immediately. The sponsor shall clearly identify the specific issues that resulted in the immediate termination and provide evidence of prior notification of issues resulting in the immediate termination, if applicable when appropriate. Upon receiving written notice from the sponsor, the charter school's governing board has 10 calendar days to request a hearing. A requested hearing must be expedited and the final order must be issued within 60 days after the date of request. The sponsor shall assume operation of the charter school throughout the pendency of the hearing under paragraph (b) unless the continued operation of the charter school would materially threaten the health, safety, or welfare of the students. Failure by the sponsor to assume and continue operation of the charter school shall result in the awarding of reasonable costs and attorney's fees to the charter school if the charter school prevails on appeal.

Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) and paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, are amended, paragraphs (n) and (o) are added to subsection (2) and paragraph (d) is added to subsection (6) of that section, to read:

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1006.07 District school board duties relating to student discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the attendance and control of students at school, and for proper attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the welfare of students, including:

- (2) CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT.—Adopt a code of student conduct for elementary schools and a code of student conduct for middle and high schools and distribute the appropriate code to all teachers, school personnel, students, and parents, at the beginning of every school year. Each code shall be organized and written in language that is understandable to students and parents and shall be discussed at the beginning of every school year in student classes, school advisory council meetings, and parent and teacher association or organization meetings. Each code shall be based on the rules governing student conduct and discipline adopted by the district school board and shall be made available in the student handbook or similar publication. Each code shall include, but is not limited to:
- (n) Criteria for recommending to law enforcement that a student who commits a criminal offense be allowed to participate in a civil citation or similar prearrest diversion program as an alternative to expulsion or arrest. All civil citation or similar prearrest diversion programs must comply with s. 985.12.
 - (o) Criteria for assigning a student who commits a petty

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act of misconduct, as defined by the district school board pursuant to s. 1006.13(2)(c), to a school-based intervention program. A student's participation in a school-based intervention program may not be entered into the Juvenile Justice Information System Prevention Web.

- (4) EMERGENCY DRILLS; EMERGENCY PROCEDURES. -
- (a) Formulate and prescribe policies and procedures, in consultation with the appropriate public safety agencies, for emergency drills and for actual emergencies, including, but not limited to, fires, natural disasters, active shooter and hostage situations, and bomb threats, for all students and faculty at all public schools of the district comprised of grades K-12. Drills for active shooter and hostage situations shall be conducted in accordance with developmentally appropriate and age-appropriate procedures at least as often as other emergency drills. District school board policies shall include commonly used alarm system responses for specific types of emergencies and verification by each school that drills have been provided as required by law and fire protection codes and may provide accommodations for drills conducted by ESE centers. The emergency response policy shall identify the individuals responsible for contacting the primary emergency response agency and the emergency response agency that is responsible for notifying the school district for each type of emergency.
 - (6) SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES.—Each district

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school superintendent shall establish policies and procedures for the prevention of violence on school grounds, including the assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of the school community.

- (d) Each district school board and charter school governing board must adopt, in coordination with local law enforcement agencies, a family reunification plan to reunite students and employees with their families in the event that a school is closed or unexpectedly evacuated due to a natural or man-made disaster.
- shall adopt policies for the establishment of threat assessment teams at each school whose duties include the coordination of resources and assessment and intervention with individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of school staff or students consistent with the model policies developed by the Office of Safe Schools. Such policies must include procedures for referrals to mental health services identified by the school district pursuant to s. 1012.584(4), when appropriate, and procedures for behavioral threat assessments in compliance with the instrument developed pursuant to s. 1001.212(12).
- (a) A threat assessment team shall include persons with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration, and law enforcement. Members of the threat assessment team must be involved in the threat assessment process and final decision.

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The threat assessment teams shall identify members of the school community to whom threatening behavior should be reported and provide guidance to students, faculty, and staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self. Upon the availability of the behavioral threat assessment instrument developed pursuant to s. 1001.212(12), the threat assessment team shall use that instrument.

Section 9. Section 1006.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1006.12 Safe-school officers at each public school.—For the protection and safety of school personnel, property, students, and visitors, each district school board and school district superintendent shall partner with law enforcement agencies or security agencies to establish or assign one or more safe-school officers at each school facility within the district, including charter schools. A district school board must collaborate with charter school governing boards to facilitate charter school access to all safe-school officer options available under this section. The school district may implement any combination of the options in subsections (1)-(4) to best meet the needs of the school district and charter schools.

(1) SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER.—A school district may establish school resource officer programs through a cooperative

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agreement with law enforcement agencies.

- (a) School resource officers shall undergo criminal background checks, drug testing, and a psychological evaluation and be certified law enforcement officers, as defined in s. 943.10(1), who are employed by a law enforcement agency as defined in s. 943.10(4). The powers and duties of a law enforcement officer shall continue throughout the employee's tenure as a school resource officer.
- (b) School resource officers shall abide by district school board policies and shall consult with and coordinate activities through the school principal, but shall be responsible to the law enforcement agency in all matters relating to employment, subject to agreements between a district school board and a law enforcement agency. Activities conducted by the school resource officer which are part of the regular instructional program of the school shall be under the direction of the school principal.
- (c) Complete mental health crisis intervention training using a curriculum developed by a national organization with expertise in mental health crisis intervention. The training shall improve officers' knowledge and skills as first responders to incidents involving students with emotional disturbance or mental illness, including de-escalation skills to ensure student and officer safety.
 - (2) SCHOOL SAFETY OFFICER.—A school district may commission

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one or more school safety officers for the protection and safety of school personnel, property, and students within the school district. The district school superintendent may recommend, and the district school board may appoint, one or more school safety officers.

- (a) School safety officers shall undergo criminal background checks, drug testing, and a psychological evaluation and be law enforcement officers, as defined in s. 943.10(1), certified under the provisions of chapter 943 and employed by either a law enforcement agency or by the district school board. If the officer is employed by the district school board, the district school board is the employing agency for purposes of chapter 943, and must comply with the provisions of that chapter.
- (b) A school safety officer has and shall exercise the power to make arrests for violations of law on district school board property or on property owned or leased by a charter school under the charter contract, as applicable, and to arrest persons, whether on or off such property, who violate any law on such property under the same conditions that deputy sheriffs are authorized to make arrests. A school safety officer has the authority to carry weapons when performing his or her official duties.
- (c) A district school board may enter into mutual aid agreements with one or more law enforcement agencies as provided

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- in chapter 23. A school safety officer's salary may be paid jointly by the district school board and the law enforcement agency, as mutually agreed to.
 - (3) SCHOOL GUARDIAN.—At the school district's or the charter school governing board's discretion, as applicable, pursuant to s. 30.15, a school district or charter school governing board may participate in the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program to meet the requirement of establishing a safe—school officer. The following individuals may serve as a school guardian, in support of school—sanctioned activities for purposes of s. 790.115, upon satisfactory completion of the requirements under s. 30.15(1)(k) and certification by a sheriff:
 - (a) A school district employee or personnel, as defined under s. 1012.01, or a charter school employee, as provided under s. 1002.33(12)(a), who volunteers to serve as a school guardian in addition to his or her official job duties; or
 - (b) An employee of a school district or a charter school who is hired for the specific purpose of serving as a school guardian.
 - (4) SCHOOL SECURITY GUARD.—A school district or charter school governing board may contract with a security agency as defined in s. 493.6101(18) to employ as a school security guard an individual who holds a Class "D" and Class "G" license pursuant to chapter 493, provided the following training and

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476 contractual conditions are met:

- (a) An individual who serves as a school security guard, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of this section, must:
- 1. Demonstrate completion of 144 hours of required training pursuant to s. 30.15(1)(k)2.
- 2. Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the Department of Law Enforcement and submit the results of the evaluation to the sheriff's office, school district, or charter school governing board, as applicable. The Department of Law Enforcement is authorized to provide the sheriff's office, school district, or charter school governing board with mental health and substance abuse data for compliance with this paragraph.
- 3. Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s. 112.0455 and the sheriff's office, school district, or charter school governing board, as applicable.
- 4. Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon inspection, and firearm qualification on at least an annual basis and provide documentation to the sheriff's office, school district, or charter school governing board, as applicable.
- (b) The contract between a security agency and a school district or a charter school governing board regarding

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requirements applicable to school security guards serving in the capacity of a safe-school officer for purposes of satisfying the requirements of this section shall define the entity or entities responsible for training and the responsibilities for maintaining records relating to training, inspection, and firearm qualification.

- (c) School security guards serving in the capacity of a safe-school officer pursuant to this subsection are in support of school-sanctioned activities for purposes of s. 790.115, and must aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises.
- (5) NOTIFICATION.—The <u>district school superintendent or</u>

 <u>charter school administrator</u> school district shall notify the county sheriff and the Office of Safe Schools immediately after, but no later than 72 hours after:
- (a) A safe-school officer is dismissed for misconduct or is otherwise disciplined.
- (b) A safe-school officer discharges his or her firearm in the exercise of the safe-school officer's duties, other than for training purposes.
- (6) CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING.—Each safe-school officer must complete mental health crisis intervention training using a curriculum developed by a national organization with expertise in mental health crisis intervention. The training shall improve the officer's knowledge and skills as a first responder to

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- incidents involving students with emotional disturbance or mental illness, including de-escalation skills to ensure student and officer safety.
- (7) LIMITATIONS.—An individual must satisfy the background screening, psychological evaluation, and drug test requirements and be approved by the sheriff before participating in any training required by s. 30.15(1)(k), which may only be conducted by a sheriff.
- (8) (6) EXEMPTION.—Any information that would identify whether a particular individual has been appointed as a safeschool officer pursuant to this section held by a law enforcement agency, school district, or charter school is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This subsection is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2023, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

If a district school board, through its adopted policies, procedures, or actions, denies a charter school access to any safe-school officer options pursuant to this section or if the charter school notifies the school district that it is unable to obtain a school resource officer or school safety officer on the same terms and conditions as the school district or that its employees are unable to complete guardian training in time to

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meet the requirements of law, the school district must assign a school resource officer or school safety officer to the charter school. Under such circumstances, the charter school's share of the costs of the school resource officer or school safety officer may not exceed the safe school allocation funds provided to the charter school pursuant to s. 1011.62(15) and shall be retained by the school district.

Section 10. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 1006.1493, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1006.1493 Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool.-

- (2) The FSSAT must help school officials identify threats, vulnerabilities, and appropriate safety controls for the schools that they supervise, pursuant to the security risk assessment requirements of s. 1006.07(6).
- (a) At a minimum, the FSSAT must address all of the following components:
 - 1. School emergency and crisis preparedness planning;
- 2. Security, crime, and violence prevention policies and procedures;
 - 3. Physical security measures;
 - 4. Professional development training needs;
- 5. An examination of support service roles in school safety, security, and emergency planning;
- 574 6. School security and school police staffing, operational practices, and related services;

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- 7. School and community collaboration on school safety;
- 8. Policies and procedures to prepare for and respond to natural and man-made disasters, including family reunification plans to reunite students and employees with their families after a school is closed or unexpectedly evacuated due to such disasters; and
- 9.8. A return on investment analysis of the recommended physical security controls.
- Section 11. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (4) of section 1008.32, Florida Statutes, to read:
- 1008.32 State Board of Education oversight enforcement authority.—The State Board of Education shall oversee the performance of district school boards and Florida College System institution boards of trustees in enforcement of all laws and rules. District school boards and Florida College System institution boards of trustees shall be primarily responsible for compliance with law and state board rule.
- (4) If the State Board of Education determines that a district school board or Florida College System institution board of trustees is unwilling or unable to comply with law or state board rule within the specified time, the state board shall have the authority to initiate any of the following actions:
 - (e) Direct the school district to suspend the salary of

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the district school superintendent and, if the superintendent is appointed, the salaries of the district school board members until such time as the noncompliance is remedied where the noncompliance is related to school safety.

Section 12. Paragraph (b) of subsection (16) of section 1011.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each district for operation of schools is not determined in the annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as follows:

(16) MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE ALLOCATION.—The mental health assistance allocation is created to provide funding to assist school districts in establishing or expanding school-based mental health care; train educators and other school staff in detecting and responding to mental health issues; and connect children, youth, and families who may experience behavioral health issues with appropriate services. These funds shall be allocated annually in the General Appropriations Act or other law to each eligible school district. Each school district shall receive a minimum of \$100,000, with the remaining balance allocated based on each school district's proportionate share of the state's total unweighted full—time equivalent student enrollment. Charter schools that submit a plan separate from the

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 school district are entitled to a proportionate share of district funding. The allocated funds may not supplant funds that are provided for this purpose from other operating funds and may not be used to increase salaries or provide bonuses. School districts are encouraged to maximize third-party health insurance benefits and Medicaid claiming for services, where appropriate.

- (b) The plans required under paragraph (a) must be focused on a multitiered system of supports to deliver evidence-based mental health care assessment, diagnosis, intervention, treatment, and recovery services to students with one or more mental health or co-occurring substance abuse diagnoses and to students at high risk of such diagnoses. The provision of these services must be coordinated with a student's primary mental health care provider and with other mental health providers involved in the student's care. At a minimum, the plans must include the following elements:
- 1. Direct employment of school-based mental health services providers to expand and enhance school-based student services and to reduce the ratio of students to staff in order to better align with nationally recommended ratio models. These providers include, but are not limited to, certified school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, and other licensed mental health professionals. The plan also must identify strategies to increase the amount of time that school-

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- based student services personnel spend providing direct services to students, which may include the review and revision of district staffing resource allocations based on school or student mental health assistance needs.
- 2. Contracts or interagency agreements with one or more local community behavioral health providers or providers of Community Action Team services to provide a behavioral health staff presence and services at district schools. Services may include, but are not limited to, mental health screenings and assessments, individual counseling, family counseling, group counseling, psychiatric or psychological services, traumainformed care, mobile crisis services, and behavior modification. These behavioral health services may be provided on or off the school campus and may be supplemented by telehealth.
- 3. Policies and procedures, including contracts with service providers, which will ensure that:
- a. A parent of a student is provided information about behavioral health services available through the student's school or local community-based behavioral health services providers, including, but not limited to, the community action treatment team established in s. 394.495 serving the student's area. A school may meet this requirement by providing information about and Internet addresses for web-based directories or guides for local behavioral health services. Such

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- directories or guides must be easily navigated and understood by individuals unfamiliar with behavioral health delivery systems or services and include specific contact information for local behavioral health providers.
- b. Each school district uses the services of the community action treatment team established in s. 394.495 to the extent that such services are available.
- c. Students who are referred to a school-based or community-based mental health service provider for mental health screening for the identification of mental health concerns and ensure that the assessment of students at risk for mental health disorders occurs within 15 days of referral. School-based mental health services must be initiated within 15 days after identification and assessment, and support by community-based mental health service providers for students who are referred for community-based mental health services must be initiated within 30 days after the school or district makes a referral.
- d. Referrals to behavioral health services available through other delivery systems or payors for which a student or individuals living in the household of a student receiving services under this subsection may qualify, if such services appear to be needed or enhancements in those individuals' behavioral health would contribute to the improved well-being of the student.
 - 4. Strategies or programs to reduce the likelihood of at-

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risk students developing social, emotional, or behavioral health problems, depression, anxiety disorders, suicidal tendencies, or substance use disorders.

5. Strategies to improve the early identification of social, emotional, or behavioral problems or substance use disorders, to improve the provision of early intervention services, and to assist students in dealing with trauma and violence.

Section 13. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

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