



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

DONALD E. FENNOY II, ED.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

FRANK A. BARBIERI, JR., ESQ.
BOARD CHAIR

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
3300 FOREST HILL BOULEVARD, C-316
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406-5869

PHONE: 561-629-8566 / FAX: 561-649-6837
WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG/SUPERINTENDENT

CHUCK SHAW
BOARD VICE CHAIR

MARCIA ANDREWS
KAREN M. BRILL
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DEBRA L. ROBINSON, M.D.
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June 5, 2019

Dear Charter School Governing Board,

Florida law requires each superintendent to 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. The law also mandates the superintendent designate a school safety specialist for the district.

In regards to charter schools, the district is responsible for facilitating charter school access to all safe-school officer options. Florida State Statute §1006.12 states there must be "one or more safe-school officers at each school facility within the district." With the passage of the new law, there are now four (4) options available to all public schools, including charter schools. These options are:

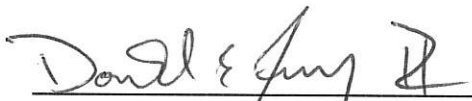
- 1) Establish school resource officer programs, through a cooperative agreement with law enforcement agencies.
- 2) Commission one or more school safety officers for the protection and safety of school personnel, property, and students within the school district. (These officers must be "certified law enforcement officers, as defined in s. 943.10(4)."
- 3) At the school district's or the charter school governing board's discretion, as applicable, pursuant to §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.
- 4) A school district or charter school governing board may contract with a security agency as defined in §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 certain training and contractual conditions are met.

Florida State Statute §1002.33(7)11, proclaims that charter schools are responsible for providing security on their respective campuses. F.S §1002.33(16)(b) was amended to clarify charter schools' mandatory compliance with the following statutes:

- §1006.12 (safe-school officers)
- §1006.07(7) (threat assessment teams)
- §1006.07(9) (School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting)
- §1006.1493 (Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool)
- §1006.07(6)(c) (active assailant response plan)
- §943.082(4)(b) (mobile suspicious activity reporting tool (FortifyFL))
- §1012.584 (youth mental health awareness assistance training)

In order to assure compliance with Florida law, a meeting with each charter school governing board and local law enforcement agency or contracted security agency will be arranged by the School Safety Specialist. The deadline for compliance with the new laws is August 1, 2019. We look forward to assisting and collaborating with all entities to ensure the safety and wellbeing of each district and charter school student, employee, visitor, vendor and volunteer.

Sincerely,



Donald E. Fennoy, II, ED.D.
Superintendent



Frank J. Kitzerow
Chief of Police & School Safety Specialist