

School Safety & Security Best Practices With Their Associated Indicators
2012-2013 School Safety and Security Self-Assessment Form

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

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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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}	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice (explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

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.

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Efficiency and Effectiveness

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

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice

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	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
b. The district and its schools have a process in place to collect, revise, update and ensure the accuracy of the discipline data.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
c. The district has established and implemented strategies to ensure the reliability of SESIR, discipline, and other safety and security program data.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

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

Does the District Meet the Best Practice (explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

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

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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

a. The district has a process in place to determine the staffing levels necessary to ensure that staff can respond to safety crises.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
c. The program structure includes reasonable lines of authority and spans of control given the responsibilities of each organizational unit.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
d. In conducting its staffing review, the district obtains broad stakeholder input.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
e. The district reports organizational structure and administrative staffing review findings in writing and distributes these findings to school board members.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice (explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

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Fiscal Impact and Timeline

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Safety Planning

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

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice

a. The district has a school safety plan that includes goals and procedures to ensure that students are in orderly, disciplined classrooms conducive to learning.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
<p>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</p> <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 	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

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

Does the District Meet the Best Practice (explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Strategies and Actions to Be Taken				
Fiscal Impact and Timeline				

⁵ Principals 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.

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

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

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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

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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
b. The comprehensive school safety plan and emergency procedures have been shared with appropriate emergency response agencies. ⁹	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
c. The comprehensive school safety plan and emergency procedures have been distributed to designated administrators and staff. ¹⁰	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
d. The comprehensive school safety plan and emergency procedures are reviewed and revised annually or more often if events warrant.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
e. The district seeks input from local law enforcement on the level of local youth gang activity and incorporates relevant recommendations from the Florida Gang Reduction Strategy 2008 – 2012 into its safety plan. ¹¹	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

s. 119.071, *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice (explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Strategies and Actions to Be Taken				
Fiscal Impact and Timeline				

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 chose 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.

¹¹ Please see <http://www.floridagangreduction.com/flgangs.nsf/pages/Strategy>, pages 34-35.

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Safety Planning

7. The district has developed emergency response procedures.

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice

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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
b. The district has procedures for contacting all schools simultaneously in the event of a districtwide emergency.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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;¹⁵ • 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. 	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
e. The district ensures that all appropriate district personnel are familiar with the Statewide Policy for Strengthening Domestic Security in Florida Public Schools to ensure schools are NIMS compliant. The policy requirements include 6 major elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access Control • Emergency Equipment • Training • Communication & Notification Procedures • Coordination with Partners • Vulnerability Assessment 	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Strategies and Actions to Be Taken				
Fiscal Impact and Timeline				

¹⁵ Necessary information should include where parents should go or whom they should contact to find out about their children and where to get further information.

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Safety Planning

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

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice

<p>a. A checklist that explains step-by-step emergency procedures is readily available in every classroom. The emergency situations include, at a minimum,¹⁶</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • weapons and hostage situations; • terrorist acts; • bomb threats; • hazardous materials or toxic chemical spills; • weather emergencies including hurricanes, tornadoes, severe storms, and flooding; and • exposure as a result of a manmade emergency. 	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
<p>b. The emergency checklist includes emergency contact numbers and provisions for backup communication with faculty, support service administrators, and emergency agencies.</p>	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
<p>c. The emergency checklist includes evacuation, lockdown, and shelter-in-place procedures developed with school transportation personnel, the local fire authority, law enforcement agencies, and other local agencies as appropriate, and includes procedures for evacuating students with disabilities.¹⁷</p>	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

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

<p>Does the District Meet the Best Practice(explain if applicable)</p>	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
<p>Strategies and Actions to Be Taken</p>				
<p>Fiscal Impact and Timeline</p>				

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ In the event of an evacuation, schools should have separate areas for student assembly, parent request/release, and media operations.

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Safety Planning

9. **The district and each school regularly practice emergency responses based on potential safety concerns at each site and develops an improvement plan based on the event/drill.**

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice

a. The district school board has developed and implemented procedures for emergency drills in accordance with state law.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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. ¹⁸	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
c. The district has implemented procedures for verifying that required and planned emergency drills have been conducted.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
d. Each school varies the conditions under which required emergency drills are performed such as time of day, location of hazard, etc. to ensure that students and staff are prepared for a range of scenarios.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

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

Does the District Meet the Best Practice(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Strategies and Actions to Be Taken				
Fiscal Impact and Timeline				

¹⁸ This will include fire drills, but should also include responses to any other hazards identified in Best Practice 6.

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Safety Planning

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

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice

a. The district provides floor plans of each educational facility to local law enforcement agencies and fire departments.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
b. The district has construction documents (plans and specifications) of each educational facility readily available for review during an emergency.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
c. A back-up set of construction documents is stored in at least one other remote, secure location off-site.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

ss. 1013.01 and 1013.13, F.S.

Does the District Meet the Best Practice(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

<p>Strategies and Actions to Be Taken</p>
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Fiscal Impact and Timeline

<p>Fiscal Impact and Timeline</p>
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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

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. ^{19, 20} This training should include classroom management and violence and alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs training for appropriate personnel.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
c. The district reviews and uses the relevant training opportunities provided by the Department of Education and other appropriate organizations.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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. ²¹	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
e. The district supplies trained personnel with the appropriate safety equipment. ²²	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
g. The district has a procedure for providing instruction to parents, teachers, school administrators, counseling staff, bus operators, and school volunteers on identifying, preventing, and responding to bullying or harassment.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
h. In counties where local law enforcement has identified youth gang activity, the district provides teachers and school personnel with appropriate training such as gang awareness, conflict resolution, de-escalating methods for verbal conflicts, diversity training, self-defense training, and safe techniques to intervene in a fight.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

ss. 1006.147(4)(l), 1012.98 (4)(b)4. and 1012.98(4)(b)5., *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Strategies and Actions to Be Taken				
Fiscal Impact and Timeline				

¹⁹ 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 of working days a substitute must have before being provided with training.

²⁰ Specialized training may include suicide prevention and responses for specific emergency situations as outlined in the emergency checklist in Best Practice 8.

²¹ 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 11a.

²² This includes equipment such as first aid kits, fire extinguishers, or portable defibrillators.

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Discipline Policies and Code of Student Conduct

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

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice

a. The school district is in compliance with relevant laws and regulations regarding discipline policies, including the code of student conduct. ²³	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
b. The district school board and school administrators annually review discipline policies and revise those policies with input from teachers, staff, parents, and students.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
c. The code of student conduct is clearly written and avoids the use of technical terminology.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
e. Each year the discipline policies are clearly and thoroughly communicated to students, parents, and other stakeholders. ²⁴	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

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

Does the District Meet the Best Practice(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Strategies and Actions to Be Taken				
Fiscal Impact and Timeline				

²³ 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.

²⁴ This can be done by sending student handbooks to parents and posting to the school and district websites.

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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

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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
b. Alternatives to suspension and expulsion have been built into the disciplinary policy and are appropriately and consistently used.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
c. The district has a process in place to relocate students who are regularly dismissed from their classroom.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
e. Disciplinary policies include procedures regarding interviewing students by law enforcement agencies and the Department of Children and Families.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
f. Disciplinary policies include procedures governing locker searches.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
g. The district's discipline policies are consistent with the state and federal requirements for students with disabilities.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

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

Does the District Meet the Best Practice(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Strategies and Actions to Be Taken				
Fiscal Impact and Timeline				

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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

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. ²⁵	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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. ^{26, 27}	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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. ²⁸ The district has a policy to share information on sexual predators and offenders who reside in close proximity of the school with school crossing guards, custodians and other persons who work or volunteer in student drop-off and pick-up areas or have a responsibility in access control. Additionally, the information is also made available to after school programs and other youth events that occur on the school's campus.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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. ²⁹	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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. ³⁰	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
h. The school district has a procedure to ensure that, prior to any decision to appoint or employ any person to volunteer at any place where children regularly congregate, a search of that person's name or information is made against the FDLE sexual offender/predator database.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

²⁵ 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.

²⁶ Charges and convictions tracked should be limited to felonies, abuse of a minor, and sale or possession of a controlled substance.

²⁷ 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.

²⁸ The information regarding sexual offenders, such as photographs, should be shared with bus drivers, teachers, front office staff, custodial staff, and cafeteria staff.

²⁹ 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.

³⁰ 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.

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i. The district promotes the use of state and national criminal history record background checks on volunteers who have unsupervised access to students on a one-on-one basis such as mentors.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
j. The school district shall explore ways to infuse Internet safety into the curriculum. Specifically the curriculum should address crimes against children facilitated through the Internet, computer, or other technologies	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
k. The district has a DOE certified policy prohibiting bullying and harassment of students and staff on school grounds, on school transportation, at school sponsored events, and through school computer networks.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

ss. 775.21, 943.0435, 943.04351, 944.607, 1006.07(1)(a), 1006.08(2), 1006.09(8), 1006.11, 1006.13, 1006.147(4), 1012.799, 1003.31, and 1003.32, *F.S*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Strategies and Actions to Be Taken				
Fiscal Impact and Timeline				

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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

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. ³¹⁻³²	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
b. The district facilitates and encourages requests for assistance with students who exhibit early warning signs, or pose a threat of future violent behavior. ³³	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
d. Schools in the district have a Student Assistance Program/Team that provides assistance for students experiencing learning and/or behavioral difficulties.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
e. The district makes available appropriate psychological counseling for students exhibiting early warning signs or posing a threat of future violent behavior..	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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. ³⁴	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
g. The district reviews and revises, as needed, the process to identify the warning signs of student violence.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

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

Does the District Meet the Best Practice(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Strategies and Actions to Be Taken				
Fiscal Impact and Timeline				

³¹ Part 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.

³² Districts 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.

³³ This could range from guidance on what to do to help with actual intervention.

³⁴ This may not be something the district can prove directly but could be measured by the absence of confidentiality breaches.

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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

a. The district has developed, in accordance with state law, a cooperative agreement with the Department of Juvenile Justice.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
b. The district works proactively with students, parents, law enforcement, the community and the media to address safety and security issues including issues related to Internet safety to specifically address crimes against children facilitated through the Internet, computer, or other technologies.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
c. The district works with local community agencies and businesses to identify ways to increase support in keeping schools safe. ³⁵	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
d. The district provides information to parents regarding the necessary school-entry health examinations and immunizations for all students.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
e. The district has crime watch programs and school safety hotline(s) in place and available in all schools.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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).	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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. ³⁶	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

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(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Strategies and Actions to Be Taken				
Fiscal Impact and Timeline				

³⁵ This is accomplished through activities such as through public-private partnerships.

³⁶ 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.

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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.**³⁷

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice

a. School climate surveys include questions relating to discipline, bullying, threats perceived by students, and other safety or security related issues.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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; • peer mediation; and • prevention of bullying and harassment. 	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
c. Curricula and special programs on violence and drug prevention, health, safety, and security are available to students, school staff, and parents.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
d. The district regularly reviews the school climate at each school and revises, eliminates, or adds programs accordingly.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

ss. 1004.04, 1004.05, and 1006.147(4)(l), *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Strategies and Actions to Be Taken				
Fiscal Impact and Timeline				

³⁷ Article IX, Section 1, Florida Constitution.

School Safety & Security Best Practices With Their Associated Indicators
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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

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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
b. The district has an approved Safe and Drug-Free School (SDFS) plan and regularly reviews and updates the plan.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
c. Coaches and athletes adhere to established policies prohibiting tobacco and drug, including alcohol, use.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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. ³⁸	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Strategies and Actions to Be Taken				
Fiscal Impact and Timeline				

³⁸ As part of this review, the district should have performance-related data for each of these programs.

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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.** ³⁹

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice

a. The district reviews and makes available to its schools sources of violence and drug prevention and other safety-related programs and curricula. ⁴⁰⁻⁴¹	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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. ⁴²⁻⁴³	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
d. The district has considered a dress code or school uniform policy. ⁴⁴	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
e. Students at each grade level are taught violence prevention, conflict resolution, bullying/harassment prevention, and communication/decision making skills.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
f. In developing, implementing, and maintaining its safe and drug-free schools programs, the district collaborates with other governmental and private agencies as needed. ⁴⁵	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
g. The district regularly reviews the performance of its intervention programs and revises, eliminates, or adds programs accordingly.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
h. The school district shall ensure that Internet safety is infused into the curriculum. Specifically, the curriculum should address crimes against children facilitated through the Internet, computer, or other technologies.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

s. 1003.32 and 1006.147(4)(1), *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Strategies and Actions to Be Taken				
Fiscal Impact and Timeline				

³⁹ These programs should be designed to improve overall student performance, reduce risk factors and warning signs, prevent bullying or harassment, and improve student behavior.

⁴⁰ 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.

⁴¹ Such sources would include the K-20 Education Safety Partnership’s electronic clearinghouse and the Department of Education’s Program Inventory.

⁴² These programs should be designed to ensure the safety of students, teachers, and administrators.

⁴³ 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.

⁴⁴ 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.

⁴⁵ The Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Education are examples of such agencies.

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Safety Programs and Curricula

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

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice

a. The district teaches instructional and non-instructional staff warning signs associated with students who pose a risk for suicidal behavior.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
b. The district facilitates and encourages requests for assistance with students who pose a risk for suicidal behavior.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

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Fiscal Impact and Timeline

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School Safety & Security Best Practices With Their Associated Indicators
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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

<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 that 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 that are 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. 	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
<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 construction. ^{46, 47}</p>	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
<p>c. The district can demonstrate that whenever facilities are renovated or remodeled, safety needs are assessed and safety designs are revised or added to the facility. ⁴⁸</p>	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
<p>d. The district can demonstrate that facility maintenance incorporates principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. ⁴⁹</p>	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Strategies and Actions to Be Taken				
Fiscal Impact and Timeline				

⁴⁶ 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. For more information, consult the Florida Safe School Design Guidelines (http://www.fldoe.org/edfacil/safe_schools.asp).

⁴⁷ Training in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design is available from the state’s Department of Education.

⁴⁸ These needs and designs include lighting, break-proof doors, security systems, and fencing. Essentially, is safety reviewed and addressed as part of the renovation or remodeling process?

⁴⁹ Such as territoriality and ownership.

School Safety & Security Best Practices With Their Associated Indicators
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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

a. Access to campuses and educational facilities is limited to authorized individuals.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
b. Each educational facility has a clearly marked central point for receiving and screening all visitors. ⁵⁰	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
c. Each educational facility has a procedure regarding the release of students to parents, guardians, or other persons. ⁵¹	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
d. Buildings are secured when unoccupied, but security devices shall not prevent egress from the building at any time. ⁵²	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
e. There is a key control program to account for all keys to all buildings, rooms, and gates.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

<p>Strategies and Actions to Be Taken</p>
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Fiscal Impact and Timeline

<p>Fiscal Impact and Timeline</p>
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⁵⁰ This 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.

⁵¹ This would include procedures such as identification checks.

⁵² This would include times the building is or should be unoccupied such as after being closed for the night or the weekend.

School Safety & Security Best Practices With Their Associated Indicators
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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

a. The district follows US Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines and consults with other authorities regarding playground construction materials and regulations.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
b. District personnel conduct regular maintenance checks of playground equipment and ground cover surfaces, and document conditions in need of repair, replacement, or maintenance.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
c. The district identifies and corrects playground deficiencies in a timely manner.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
d. Playground areas are supervised when children are present and using the areas during school hours.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
e. Playgrounds are located away from any public ways, service driveways, parking lots, or public sidewalks.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

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Fiscal Impact and Timeline

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School Safety & Security Best Practices With Their Associated Indicators
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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

a. Each educational facility has a security system that was selected or designed with input from security professionals. ^{53, 54}	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
b. The district can demonstrate that current security equipment is inspected and reviewed annually by safety and security professionals.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
c. Each educational facility maintains evacuation and disaster recovery kits that include copies of all necessary records as well as basic equipment, as required by district emergency response procedures. ^{55, 56 57}	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
d. The district ensures that school buses and other fleet equipment are adequately secured when not in use. ⁵⁸	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

<p>Strategies and Actions to Be Taken</p>

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

<p>Fiscal Impact and Timeline</p>

⁵³ 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.

⁵⁴ This would include professionals such as local fire authority, police, and security experts.

⁵⁵ 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.

⁵⁶ 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, cell phone, first aid kit, emergency medicine, weather gear, and bullhorn.

⁵⁷ Refer to the 2006-07 Disaster & Crisis Management Guidebook: <http://www.ncef.org/pubs/edfacilities-disaster-management-guidebook-2007.pdf>

⁵⁸ Bus compounds should have adequate fencing, lighting, or other security measures to ensure adequate access control.

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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

a. Each educational facility is equipped with fully stocked first aid kits and fire extinguishers with current inspection tags.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
b. The district has provided appropriate safety equipment in instructional areas with dangerous equipment or chemicals. ⁵⁹	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
d. The district supplies all necessary protective equipment to minimize the number of injuries related to athletic activities. All athletic equipment is maintained in a safe condition. ⁶⁰	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

ss. 1006.063, 1006.165 *F.S.*

Does the District Meet the Best Practice(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

<p>Strategies and Actions to Be Taken</p>

Fiscal Impact and Timeline

<p>Fiscal Impact and Timeline</p>

⁵⁹ Dangerous equipment or chemicals includes machinery such as saws or drills for shop class, chemicals for chemistry classes, scalpels for biology, and so forth.

⁶⁰ For example, the district ensures that automated external defibrillators are available as required in statute and that athletes wear the proper protective equipment and are properly supervised during practices.

School Safety & Security Best Practices With Their Associated Indicators
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Facilities and Equipment

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

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice

a. The district follows all appropriate food safety health practices and regulations.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
c. The district complies with all appropriate federal and state requirements for facility safety. ⁶¹	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
d. The district maintains a copy of the state and local health regulations. All school sites have a copy of the local health regulations.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
e. The district distributes written emergency procedures and plans to each <i>cafeteria site</i> for reporting, investigating, and correcting the cause of any food safety incidents and these documents are distributed to the principal and made available to all employees.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
f. The district distributes written emergency procedures and plans to each <i>school site</i> for reporting, investigating, and correcting the cause of any environmental incidents and these documents are distributed to the principal and made available to all employees.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Strategies and Actions to Be Taken				
Fiscal Impact and Timeline				

⁶¹ Examples include EPA guidelines, Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Hazardous Communication Standards, federal and state regulations regarding hazardous materials plans, Asbestos Hazardous Emergency Response Act rules, and other mandated environmental and safety issues.

School Safety & Security Best Practices With Their Associated Indicators
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Facilities and Equipment

27. The district has worked with staff or members of the Campus Security component of the Regional Domestic Security Task Force to develop a Pre-incident Security Enhancement plan. ⁶²

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice

a. The district ensures that all appropriate district personnel are familiar with the National Infrastructure Protection Plan. ⁶³	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
b. A vulnerability assessment has been conducted on all educational and ancillary facilities. ⁶⁴	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
c. The Security Plan is NIMS compliant (see Best Practice #7 under Safety Planning) and is aligned with the School Safety Plan (Best Practice #4).	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
d. The district has participated in a regional domestic security task force exercise. ⁶⁵	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

Does the District Meet the Best Practice(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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Strategies and Actions to Be Taken

<p>Strategies and Actions to Be Taken</p>
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Fiscal Impact and Timeline

<p>Fiscal Impact and Timeline</p>
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⁶² Information related to the Domestic Security Task Force can be found on the Florida Department of Law Enforcement website: <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/Domestic-Security/Menu/Domestic-Security-Organization.aspx>.

⁶³ Can be included with the In-Service Training described in Best Practice #11.

⁶⁴ See Best Practice #7.

⁶⁵ Exercises may include the following types: workshop, tabletop, drill, functional, or full scale.

*School Safety & Security Best Practices With Their Associated Indicators
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Transportation

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

Indicators of Meeting the Best Practice

a. The district and charter schools have procedures to ensure the safety of designated school bus routes and to ensure that bus stops are designated in the most reasonably safe locations. ⁶⁷	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
b. All persons transporting students, including school personnel, charter school personnel, and contractors, are properly licensed, trained, and qualified.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
c. The district and each charter school monitor school bus operators' driving records and have 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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
d. Each school principal ensures that all transported students receive instruction in safe riding practices and rules of conduct and that these safety practices and rules are communicated to parents or guardians. This includes the parents' or guardians' shared responsibility for the safety of their children when they are not under district supervision while traveling to and from school or the bus stop. ⁶⁸	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
e. The district clearly communicates, such as through a checklist, what steps district staff will take in response to transportation accidents or other transportation emergencies. ⁶⁹	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
f. The school district has implemented procedures to ensure compliance with laws and rules related to limiting proximity of bus stops to statutorily specified sexual offenders under conditional release.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
g. The school district has a procedure to communicate to bus drivers information regarding registered sexual offenders and predators who reside near designated bus stops.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
h. The school district has a procedure to ensure that students are safely transported to and from schools and released only at approved locations and under approved circumstances.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
i. The school district has implemented procedures for timely review and correction of safety hazards reported at bus stop locations; such procedures shall include consideration of the risks to students who are unaccompanied at bus stop locations.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
j. The school district and charter schools inform parents, guardians and students at least annually in writing of their responsibilities and related district policies to ensure safe travel and conduct of students not under the custody and control of the school district or charter school.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

Related Statutes and Rules

ss. 316.6145, 775.21, 943.0435, 944.607, 947.1405(7)(a), 1006.147(2)(b), 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(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

⁶⁷ Procedures 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.

⁶⁸ Student 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).

⁶⁹ District staff should include both bus drivers as well as other affected staff.

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Strategies and Actions to Be Taken
Fiscal Impact and Timeline

School Safety & Security Best Practices With Their Associated Indicators
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Transportation

30. **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

a. School bus operators perform pre-trip inspections of school bus safety items and correct deficiencies before buses are used to transport students, and school bus operators perform post-trip inspections to ensure no students are left on buses.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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> . ⁷⁰	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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> .	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
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.	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A

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(explain if applicable)	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Strategies and Actions to Be Taken				
Fiscal Impact and Timeline				

⁷⁰ Staff 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.