

Pam Stewart Commissioner of Education

Marva Johnson, *Chair* Andy Tuck, *Vice Chair Members* Gary Chartrand Ben Gibson Tom Grady Michael Olenick Joe York

State Board of Education

June 19, 2018

Dear Superintendents:

On March 23, 2018, Governor Rick Scott issued a letter informing districts of the progress already made under Senate Bill (SB) 7026, the "Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act," and outlined timelines necessary for implementation of the Act. In preparation for providing technical assistance for implementation, the Florida Department of Education will need to gather information from each school district.

As outlined in section 30.15(1)(k), Florida Statutes (Section 5 of SB 7026), and the Governor's letter regarding the guardian program:

• By July 1, 2018, I expect each school board, in coordination with their County Sheriff to determine how many people they intend to train using the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program. This program is 100 percent voluntary. Once participation decisions have been made, DOE will work with the Governor's Office and the Legislature to redirect any unused funding from this program to hire additional school resource officers and school safety officers.

As outlined in section 1006.07(6)(a), Florida Statutes (Section 24 of SB 7026), and the Governor's letter regarding the designation of a School Safety Specialist:

• By July 1, 2018, superintendents must designate a district School Safety Specialist.

Please email the following information for your district to <u>SafeSchools@fldoe.org</u> by July 1, 2018.

- 1. Of the options for satisfying the safe-school officer at each public school, does your district intend to use School Resource Officers, School Safety Officers, and/or the School Guardian Program?
- 2. If your district intends to participate in the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program please provide this additional information:
 - a. Has the participation in the program been approved by your school board? If not, when is it scheduled to be considered?
 - b. Has your local sheriff agreed to provide the required training outlined in SB 7026?
 - c. How many guardians are you expecting to participate in the program?

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- d. Please provide the name, phone number and email address of your guardian program district contact person?
- 3. If your district does not plan to participate in the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program will you allow your charter schools to participate with the sheriff's office on their own?
- 4. Who is your district School Safety Specialist?
- 5. Please provide their name, phone number, and email address.

Thank you very much for providing timely information so we may assist districts with the implementation of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act.

Sincerely,

Jam Stewart

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