**FortifyFL instruction requirement in the first 5 days of school in Florida**

Florida Statutes Section 943.082 and Rule 6A-1.0018(10)(d), F.A.C., mandate that each district school board and charter school governing board must ensure that students receive instruction on the use of the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool known as FortifyFL within the first 5 days of each school year. This instruction must be:

* Age and developmentally appropriate.
* Include the consequences for making a threat or false report through FortifyFL or any other tip reporting tool.

This requirement is part of Florida's comprehensive approach to school safety, which also includes:

* Promoting the use of FortifyFL through various channels like school websites, newsletters, and school campuses.
* Installing the FortifyFL app on mobile devices issued to students and bookmarking the website on computer devices issued to students.
* Developing a comprehensive training and awareness program on the use of the tool, in collaboration with the Department of Legal Affairs and the Office of Safe Schools within the Department of Education.

Penalties for false reporting

It is crucial to emphasize that making false reports through FortifyFL can have serious consequences.

* False reports, even if intended as a joke, are considered serious and can lead to an investigation and potential criminal penalties.
* Knowingly submitting a false tip, whether through FortifyFL or other reporting tools, can result in criminal penalties and information from the device used to make the claim being provided to law enforcement.

It is essential for students, parents, and educators to understand the importance of using FortifyFL responsibly and for its intended purpose of enhancing school safety.