

SUMMARY SHEET

RECOMMENDATION TO SUPERINTENDENT FOR SCHOOL BOARD AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM NO.

DATE OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: May 27, 2025

TITLE OF AGENDA ITEM: Adoption/Approval of Board Policy Revisions

DIVISION: Support Services

_____ This is a CONTINUATION of a current project, grant, etc.

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF ITEM:

Support Services is requesting Board approval and adoption of the following Gadsden County School Board policies:

BP 3.40	Safe and Secure Schools	Revision
BP 4.24	Artificial Intelligence Acceptable Use	New

FUND SOURCE: N/A

AMOUNT: N/A

PREPARED BY: Dr. Sylvia R. Jackson



POSITION: Assistant Superintendent for Support Services

INTERNAL INSTRUCTIONS TO BE COMPLETED BY PREPARER

_____ Number of ORIGINAL SIGNATURES NEEDED by preparer.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SIGNATURE: page(s) numbered _____

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE: page(s) numbered _____

REVIEWED BY: _____

CHAPTER 3.00 - SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

SAFE AND SECURE SCHOOLS

3.40+

I. Introduction

The Gadsden County District School Board has as its first obligation to provide a safe, secure and orderly learning environment in all schools and at all sponsored activities for students, school personnel, and other persons.

II. Orderly Environment

An orderly environment can only be achieved by developing procedures to control students, personnel, and other persons on school property and attending School Board or school sponsored events or activities. All procedures shall reflect the following policy provisions:

- A. No person other than a student and employee of a school site shall be on a school campus during school hours unless they are in compliance with Policy 9.60, Visitors.
- B. A student who is suspended or expelled is not in good standing and is not permitted on the school campus, school grounds, or at a school sponsored activity.
- C. Any person on a school campus or school grounds not in accordance with this policy is hereby declared to be a trespasser and shall be asked to leave immediately by any staff member. Each principal shall keep a log of such incidents which shall provide the name of the person asked to leave and other pertinent information. If said person shall again be seen upon the school campus or school grounds, any staff member shall immediately notify the principal or appropriate local law enforcement officials without further warning.
- D. Individuals who enter School Board property, activity, or School Board meeting without a legitimate reason and create a disturbance or refuse to leave the property or activity when asked by the Board chairperson, Superintendent/designee, principal or person in charge are subject to criminal penalty as provided in Florida Statutes. The person in charge shall contact appropriate law enforcement officials in cases of disruptive activity or refusal to leave the school property or activity and take appropriate actions to have the offender punished as prescribed by law. The Superintendent shall be notified of any such action at schools or school activities.
- E. No person except law enforcement and security officers may have in his/her possession any weapon, illegal substance, or dangerous substance while on school property or at school events.

- III. The following emergency response agency(ies) will notify the District in the event of an emergency:

Emergency Response Agency

Agency	Address	Telephone	Type of Emergency
Quincy Police Department	121 E. Jefferson St. Quincy, FL 32351	850-627-7111	Public Safety/First Responder
Gadsden County Sheriffs Office	339 E. Jefferson St. Quincy, FL 32351	850-627-9233	Public Safety/First Responder
Gretna Police Department	120 Beech Ave. Gretna, FL 32332	850-856-5257	Public Safety/First Responder
Chattahoochee Police Department	32 Jefferson St. Chattahoochee, FL 32324	850-663-4383	Public Safety/First Responder
Havana Police Department	121 7 th Avenue E Havana, FL 32333	850-539-2800	Public Safety/First Responder
Quincy Fire Department	20 N. Stewart Street Quincy, FL 32351	850-875-7315	Emergency Medical Resoonse/Fire Prevention
Midway Police Department	50 M.L. King Blvd Midway, FL 32343	850-875-8825 850-574-3057	Public Safety/First Responder
Gadsden County Emergency Management	9 E. Jefferson St. Quincy, FL 32353	850-875-8650	Emergency Operations (Weather related disaster)

IV. Safety, Security and-Emergency Plans

- A. The Superintendent shall develop a School Safety and Security Plan with input from representatives of the local law enforcement agencies, the local Fire Marshall(s), representative(s) from emergency medical services; building administrators, representative(s) from the local emergency management agency, School Resource Officer(s) and/or representative(s) of the Gadsden County Health Department.
- B. As required by state law, the Superintendent shall require the use of the Safe School Assessment Survey based on the School Safety and Security Best Practices Indicators created by FL DOE Safe School Assessment Tool (FSSAT) to conduct a self-assessment of the District's current safety and security practices.
- C. Upon completion of these self-assessments, the Superintendent shall convene a safety and security review meeting for the purpose of (a) reviewing the current School Safety and Security Plan and the results of the self-assessment; (b) identifying necessary modifications to the plan; (c) identifying additional necessary training for staff and students; and (d) discussing any other related matters deemed necessary by the meeting participants.
- D. The Superintendent shall present the findings of the safety and security review meeting to the Board for review and approval appropriate school safety, emergency management and preparedness plans. The Superintendent shall make any necessary recommendations to the Board that identify strategies and activities that the Board should incorporate into the School Safety and Security Plan and/or implement in order to improve school safety and security. The School Safety and Security Plan is, however, confidential and is not subject to review or release as a public record.

- E. The Superintendent shall report the self-assessment results and any action taken by the Board to review the School Safety and Security Plan to the Commissioner of Education within thirty (30) days after the Board meeting.
 - F. Emergency management and preparedness plans shall include notification procedures for weapon use and active assailant/hostage situations, hazardous materials and toxic chemical spills, weather emergencies, and exposure resulting from a manmade emergency.
 - G. Emergency management and preparedness procedures for active assailant situations shall engage the participation of the district school safety specialist, threat assessment team members, faculty, staff and students for each school and be conducted by the law enforcement agency or agencies designated as first responders to the school's campus.
 - H. Each school shall develop and maintain an up-to-date plan based upon the uniform guidelines and including the provisions of Florida law, State Board of Education rules, and other applicable regulations.
 - I. Copies of school plans shall be provided county and city law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and emergency preparedness officials.
- V. Threat Assessment
- A. The primary purpose of a threat management is to identify individuals exhibiting threatening or other concerning behavior, assess the risk of harm, and coordinate appropriate interventions and services for such individuals. The Board's threat management process is a systematic, fact-based method designed to identify, using threat assessment protocols, whether behaviors or communications constitute a concern for violence or harm to another person. Florida Harm Prevention and Threat Management Model is designed to identify, assess, manage, and monitor threats to schools, school staff and students. The goal of the threat management process is to prevent violence or harm to members of the school community. The threat management process uses a methodology that identifies students exhibiting threatening or other concerning behavior, gathers information to assess the risk of harm to themselves or others, and identifies appropriate interventions to prevent violence and promote successful outcomes.
 - B. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to designate a Threat Management Coordinator; a District Threat Management Team and school-based threat management teams.
 - 1. The District Threat Management Coordinator (DTMC) must complete all trainings specific to the Coordinator role and will oversee threat management at all public k-12 schools, including charter schools sponsored by the District. The DTMC must:

- a. Ensure all district-level and school-level threat management team personnel are trained in threat management and on the Florida Model.
 - b. Serve as Chair of the District Threat Management Team and as the liaison to the Department of Education's Office of Safe Schools.
 - c. Ensure procedures are outlined for making referrals to mental health services for students exhibiting threatening or concerning behavior of self-harm or harm to others.
 - d. Assist School Based Threat Management Teams in the District.
- 2. District Threat Management Team (DTMT) will receive referrals from the School Based Threat Management Teams, assess serious situations, and provide support to school-based teams, including charter schools in their district. The DTMT must include the DTMC, persons from school district administration and persons with expertise.
- 3. School Based Threat Management Team (SBTMT) will be headed by a Chair and Vice-Chair who are appointed by the principal or designee.
 - a. The Chair serves as the point person for threat management at the school-level and is responsible for triaging reported threats or concerning behavior and communications to determine whether the matter should be summarily closed, or whether it should be reviewed by the full SBTMT.
 - b. The team shall be comprised of a minimum of four (4) members, including a person with expertise in counseling (school/psychological), instructional personnel, school administration, and law enforcement (school resource officer)-
 - c. If none of the SBTMT members are familiar with the student of concern, the SBTMT Chair will assign a member of the school's staff who is familiar with the student to consult with and provide background information to the threat management team. Consulting personnel do not have to complete Florida Model training and may not participate in the decision-making process.
 - d. All members of the threat management team must be involved in the threat management process and final decision making.
 - e. Parental Notification
 - i. If the SBTMT Chair determines the concerning threat or behavior reported is a low level of concern and summarily closes the case, the Chair/designee must use reasonable efforts to notify the parent or guardian of the student concern.

- ii. If the Chair does not summarily close the case and refers the matter to the SBTMT, reasonable efforts must be made to notify the student of concern's parent or guardian on the same day the SBTMT assigns the preliminary level of concern. The SBTMT must document all attempts to make contact with the parent or guardian using the contact information shared by the parent or guardian with the District.
 - iii. If the preliminary level of concern is high, the SBTMT chair or designee must notify the Superintendent or designee to ensure the requirements of F.S. Stat. 1006.07 are met.
 - iv. The SBTMT Chair must notify the student of concern's parent or guardian if the threat management process reveals information about their student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being or results in a change in related services or monitoring, including but not limited to implementation of a Student Support Management Plan (SSMP).
 - v. The SBTMT Chair or designee must provide a copy of the SSMP to the student of concern's parent or guardian upon the plan's finalization and anytime the SSMP is substantially revised.
 - vi. The SBTMT Chair must make a reasonable effort to notify the parent or guardian of the targeted student before the end of the school day that the report was received unless the Chair has determined the concern is unfounded.
- 4. The threat management team will be responsible for the assessment of individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of school staff and/or students and coordinating resources and interventions for the individual.
- 5. If a student with a disability is reported to have made a threat to harm others and the student's intent is not clear, a referral will be made to the threat management team for evaluation.
- 6. Upon a preliminary determination that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to him/herself or others, the threat management team may obtain criminal history record information. The team must immediately report its determination to the Superintendent who must immediately attempt to notify the student's parent or legal guardian. A parent or guardian has the right to inspect and review the threat management. The team will coordinate resources and interventions to engage behavioral and or mental health crisis resources when mental health or substance abuse crisis is suspected.

7. The threat management team must plan for the implementation and monitoring of appropriate interventions to manage or mitigate the student's risk for engaging in violence and increasing the likelihood of positive outcomes.
8. Upon the student's transfer to a different school, the threat management team must verify that any intervention services provided to the student remain in place until the threat management team of the receiving school independently determines the need for intervention services. Threat management teams must meet as often as needed to fulfill their duties of assessing and intervening with persons whose behavior may pose a threat to school staff or students, but no less than monthly. The teams must maintain documentation of all meetings, including meeting dates and times, team members in attendance, cases discussed and actions taken.
9. Through the DTMC, the District must ensure that all threat management teams in the District report to the DOE office on the team's activities during the previous year. The District School Safety Specialist must ensure all schools in the District timely report all required information. The report will contain all data or information required by Florida law.

VI. Safety- Procedures

- A. School alarms shall be monitored on a weekly basis and malfunctions shall be reported for immediate repair.
- B. A safety program shall be established consistent with the provisions of the Gadsden County School District's Crisis Response Manual, which identifies 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.
- C. Emergency evacuation drills (fire, hurricane, tornado, active assailant/hostage situation, other natural disaster, and school bus) shall be held in compliance with state requirements and formulated in consultation with the appropriate public safety agencies. Each principal, site administrator or transportation official is responsible for
 1. Developing and posting emergency evacuation routes and procedures;
 2. Assigning and training all staff members in specified responsibilities to ensure prompt, safe and orderly evacuation;
 3. Identifying and reporting hazardous areas requiring corrective measures; and
 4. Preparing and submitting within fifteen (15) calendar days an after-action report of each emergency drill and fire drill to the District school safety specialist for review.

- D. In the event of an emergency, the Superintendent is authorized to dismiss early or close any or all schools. Except that the principal may dismiss the school when the Superintendent or designee cannot be contacted and an extreme emergency exists endangering the health, safety, or welfare of students. Any such actions shall be reported immediately to the Superintendent or designee along with a statement describing the reasons for the action. Such report shall be submitted to the School Board at the next regular meeting unless a special meeting is held relating to the emergency.
- E. Parents, as defined by law, have a right to timely notification of threats, unlawful acts, and significant emergencies that occur on school grounds, during school transportation or during school-sponsored activities pursuant to sections 1006.07(4) and (7), F.S.
 - 1. Parents have a right to access school safety and discipline incidents as reported pursuant to section 1006.07(9), F.S.

VII. Safety - Violence Prevention

- A. The Superintendent shall develop a violence prevention plan for use by each school that establishes policies and procedures for the prevention of violence on school grounds; including assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of the school community.
- B. Training in identification of potentially violent behaviors and the procedures to be implemented shall be provided to personnel of the schools.

VIII. Security

- A. The Superintendent shall establish and implement a Domestic Security Plan consistent with the requirements of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- B. The Superintendent shall develop and implement guidelines and procedures for reviewing each school's security provisions. The security provisions shall include procedures restricting the ingress to or egress from a school campus when students are on the campus. Unless the gate or access point is attended or actively staffed, the security procedures shall state how all gates or other access points will remain closed and locked. If the school safety specialist determines there are other safety measures in place to allow a gate or access point to not be locked, the determination must be documented in the FSSAT.
- C. Within the first ten (10) days of school students must be notified of the safest areas to shelter in a classroom. The safety areas for students to shelter within the classrooms and/or instructional spaces must be clearly marked. All classrooms and other instructional spaces must be locked or actively staffed when occupied by students except between class periods.
- D. The Superintendent shall designate an administrator or a law enforcement officer employed by the County Sheriff's Office as the school safety specialist for the

District. The School Safety Specialist is responsible for the supervision and oversight for all school safety and security personnel, policies, and procedures in the District. The School Safety Specialist's responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

1. On an annual basis the school safety specialist will review district and charter school policies and procedures for compliance with state law and rules and ensure the timely and accurate submission of the school environmental safety incident report (FSSAT) to the Department.
2. The School Safety Specialist must provide recommendations to the superintendent and school board at a publicly noticed board meeting identifying strategies and activities that the Board should implement in order to address the findings to improve school safety and security.
3. No later than November 1, the School Safety Specialist shall submit a district best-practice assessment in the FSSAT that includes the school board's action(s) to the school security risk assessment findings and recommendations provided to them.
4. Provide training and resources to students and staff in matters relating to mental health awareness and assistance; emergency procedures (including active assailant training), and school safety and security.
5. The School Safety Specialist will develop a process related to safety used to identify and correct instances of noncompliance at the school.
 - a. On a quarterly basis, the school safety specialist will report to the superintendent and school board any non-compliance by the district or school(s) with school safety laws or rules.
 - b. Deficiencies relating to safe-school officer coverage must be resolved by the next school day.
 - c. Within 24 hours, the School Safety Specialist must notify the Office of Safe Schools of the deficiencies related to safe- school officer coverage and any instance of noncompliance that is determined to be an imminent threat to the health, safety and welfare of students or staff. The Office of Safe Schools shall be notified within three (3) days of any instance of noncompliance that is not corrected within 60 days.
6. The School Safety Specialist must make unannounced visits while school is in session to all public schools in the district, including charter schools and perform inspections for safe school compliance. The school safety specialist must notify and report to the district's superintendent or charter school principal, if there are any violations discovered or if non-compliance of the safe school requirements is suspected by a district school or charter school.

- E. A review of each school's security provisions shall be conducted annually by the principal with a written report submitted to the Superintendent or designee for submission to the Board for review.
- F. Each school's emergency plan shall include security provisions including emergency lockdown procedures.
- G. Establishing policies and procedures for the prevention of violence on school grounds; including assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of the school community.
- H. Adhering to background screening procedures for all staff, volunteers and mentors.
- I. Security trailers may be located on school property.

IX. Mental Health

- A. The School Board shall identify a mental health coordinator for the District. The mental health coordinator shall serve as the primary contact for the district's coordination, communication, and implementation of student mental health policies, procedures, responsibilities, and reporting.
- B. The mental health coordinator shall be responsible for:
 - 1. working with the Office of Safe Schools;
 - 2. maintaining records and reports regarding student mental health as it relates to school safety and the mental health assistance allocation;
 - 3. facilitating the implementation of school district mental health policies relating to the respective duties and responsibilities of the school district, the superintendent, and school principals;
 - 4. coordinating the staffing and training of threat assessment teams with the school safety specialist, and facilitating referrals, to mental health services, as appropriate for students and their families;
 - 5. coordinating with the school safety specialist, the training and resources for students and school district staff relating to youth mental health awareness and assistance; and
 - 6. annually review of the district's policies and procedures related to student mental health for compliance with state law and alignment with current best practices and making recommendations, as needed, for amending said policies and procedures to the superintendent and the district school board.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:
LAW(S) IMPLEMENTED:

1001.41, 1001.42, F.S.
316.614, 1001.43, 1001.51
1006.062, 1006.07, 1006.145
1006.1493, 1006.21, 1013.13, F.S.
6A-1.0403, 6A-3.0171
ADOPTED: 10/22/2019
REVISION DATE(S): 12/15/2020
7/27/2021
1/24/2023

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULE(S):
HISTORY:

FORMERLY: _____

CHAPTER 4.00 – CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Artificial Intelligence Acceptable Use

4.24+

The Gadsden County School Board supports the use of technology to improve teaching and learning, and to support innovations throughout the educational system. This includes the use of Alternative Intelligence (AI) platforms. The Gadsden County School Board is adopting this policy to emphasize the role of AI as a tool to support learning, while ensuring the platforms aren't used as a replacement for student or employee work.

Since AI systems could lead to bias in how patterns are detected and unfairness in how decisions are automated, it is essential for the District to develop this policy in how AI is used in education. This policy outlines the acceptable use of AI tools and applications within the Gadsden County School District to ensure their safe, ethical, and responsible use.

A. Teachers and staff need to be aware and understand:

1. AI is not a substitute for human creativity, judgement, and creation.
2. Supervisors must be notified when AI is being used to complete a task.
3. AI use requires authorization to protect against violation of District Policy.
4. Any use of AI platforms shall include a review of the generated result for accuracy, appropriateness, or potential bias (depending on the nature of the work).
5. Employees shall not integrate AI tools with other District software.
6. Employees shall not allow AI to learn passwords, confidential, proprietary or sensitive district data.
7. Employees shall not share or upload personally identifiable employee or student records, names, addresses, etc.
8. Employees shall not use AI tools to record meetings, classroom instruction/activities, or training sessions, unless approved by their school principal or District Level Administrator and other parties involved are aware they are being recorded.
9. Employees shall not upload recordings of meetings, classroom instruction/activities, or training sessions to AI platforms, unless approved by their school principal or District Level Administrator.
10. Employees shall not use AI for employment decisions about applicants or employees.

11. Employees shall not use AI tools specifically prohibited or (if applicable) not on approved lists.

B. Students Responsible Use:

1. AI is not a substitute for human creativity, judgement, and creation. Students may not use AI when their teacher or school has expressly forbidden its use.
2. Students shall not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) platforms to avoid doing their own work. AI platforms should only be used as a supplement when authorized by a teacher. Should AI be used, the student must acknowledge and cite the use of AI, attributing text, images, multimedia, etc. to the AI source and criteria used to show how AI contributed to result of the assignment. A violation of this rule is considered a violation of District Policy 5.55 Academic Honesty.
3. AI programs can have implicit bias, and present incorrect information. Students using AI acknowledge that it is not always factually accurate, nor seen as a credible source, and should be able to provide evidence to support its claims.
4. Students who choose to use an AI platform for purposes authorized within this policy need to be aware that they are sharing data with a third-party platform.
5. AP, IB and Dual Enrollment college and university classes may have additional restrictions and limitations regarding the use of AI.
6. Student access to certain websites using AI may be granted, however privacy guidelines and age restrictions must be considered prior to allowing the usage.
7. Any use of AI should be in compliance with Policy 3.43 Internet Safety.

C. Any misuse of AI tools and applications, such as hacking or altering data, is strictly prohibited.

D. In selecting an AI platform for use, the platform must:

1. Use large language models based on GPT-4, its equivalent, or a successor, and is on a closed system;
2. Provide professional learning to teachers;
3. Provide one-on-one tutoring aligned to the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T) Standards for reading and math;
4. Provide standards-aligned lesson plans and provides insights on student

progress; and

5. Provide District and school-level reporting and parental access to AI interactions

- E. Staff or students using AI software with a personal device and/or personal credentials should be aware that the platforms they are uploading information to is collecting various forms of data and their privacy may not be protected.
- F. This policy shall be reviewed continuously to ensure the District remains aligned with emerging and changing AI capabilities, Federal or State Law, Florida Department of Education Rule, and industry best practices.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

1001.41, 1001.42, F.S.

LAW(S) IMPLEMENTED:

1001.02, 1003.02, F.S.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULE(S):

6A-1.0957, 6A-1.0955

HISTORY:

**ADOPTED: 04/2025
REVISION DATE(S): NA**