

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to student elopement; creating s.  
 3           1003.211, F.S.; providing definitions; requiring  
 4           public schools to create a Staff Assistance for  
 5           Emergencies (SAFE) Team and a school elopement plan;  
 6           providing for membership and responsibilities of the  
 7           team; providing requirements for the plan; requiring  
 8           the team to create student-specific elopement quick  
 9           reference guides for certain students; providing  
 10          requirements for the guides; requiring public schools  
 11          to annually submit their plans to the district school  
 12          board; authorizing the State Board of Education to  
 13          adopt rules; providing an effective date.

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 15   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 17           Section 1.   Section 1003.211, Florida Statutes, is created  
 18   to read:

19           1003.211 School elopement plans.—

20           (1) For purposes of this section, the term:

21           (a) "Disability" means, for a student in kindergarten  
 22           through grade 12, autism spectrum disorder, as defined in the  
 23           Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth  
 24           Edition, published by the American Psychiatric Association, or  
 25           an intellectual disability, as defined in s. 393.063.

26        (b) "Elopement" means a student with disabilities wanders  
27 away, walks away, runs away, escapes, or otherwise leaves the  
28 supervision of school staff or leaves school grounds  
29 unsupervised or unnoticed before the end of his or her scheduled  
30 school day.

31        (2) To ensure the safety of students with disabilities at  
32 risk of elopement, each public school shall create a School  
33 Staff Assistance for Emergencies (SAFE) Team and a school  
34 elopement plan.

35        (3) The school principal and assistant principal shall  
36 serve on the SAFE Team and the school principal shall appoint at  
37 least five other members to serve on the team. The SAFE Team  
38 shall:

39        (a) Create and annually update the school elopement plan  
40 and respond to all elopements.

41        (b) Provide training to all school personnel to  
42 familiarize such personnel with the school elopement plan and  
43 all necessary procedures, including, but not limited to, the  
44 search grid established pursuant to paragraph (4)(a) and any  
45 responsibilities of such personnel if an elopement occurs.

46        (4) In developing the school elopement plan, the SAFE Team  
47 must include all of the following:

48        (a) A search grid of the school campus and surrounding  
49 areas. The search grid must include all bodies of water,  
50 intersections, train tracks and stations, parks, playgrounds,

51 and other features that may present a greater risk for students  
52 with disabilities at risk of elopement.

53 (b) Procedures for school personnel to notify school  
54 administrators if a student with disabilities elopes and  
55 procedures for school personnel to begin searching for such  
56 student. Such procedures must specify that upon notification of  
57 an elopement, the SAFE Team must notify the school resource  
58 officer or school safety officer and, if such officer deems  
59 necessary, local law enforcement. If a school resource officer  
60 or school safety officer is unavailable, the SAFE Team must  
61 immediately notify local law enforcement.

62 (c) Procedures for a coordinated response to an elopement,  
63 including, but not limited to, announcing a Code Gray, which  
64 will alert all school personnel to the elopement, and contacting  
65 the student's parent.

66 (d) The names, positions, and contact information for all  
67 members of the SAFE Team.

68 (e) Other information or procedures that the SAFE Team,  
69 district school board, or State Board of Education deems  
70 necessary.

71 (5) (a) If a student with disabilities is prone to  
72 elopement, the SAFE Team, in coordination with the student's  
73 parent, must create a student-specific elopement quick reference  
74 guide. Such elopement quick reference guide must include all of  
75 the following:

- 76        1. The student's identifying information.
- 77        2. A current photograph of the student.
- 78        3. The student's level of communication.
- 79        4. A list of the student's interests, behaviors,  
 80 preferences, and aversions.
- 81        5. Any health considerations for the student.
- 82        6. A list of any GPS technology that could be used to help  
 83 locate the student.
- 84        7. A list of possible locations where the student may go  
 85 within the search grid.
- 86        (b) The SAFE Team must distribute a student's elopement  
 87 quick reference guide to the student's parent and all relevant  
 88 school personnel.
- 89        (6) Each public school must annually provide its elopement  
 90 plan to the district school board.
- 91        (7) The state board may adopt rules to administer this  
 92 section.
- 93        Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.