

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: 2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION-SENATE BILL 7040

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED, AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

The Florida Legislature is currently taking up school safety, proposing some modifications to laws relating to armed security, mental health services, and school district oversight. Just recently, Senate Bill 7040, passed unanimously through the Senate Education committee, after few questions and limited discussion by lawmakers.

Senate Bill 7040 includes additional safety measures for Florida's students and schools by building upon the school safety and security foundation established in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act and the recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission. The proposed bill requires:

- Each school district school board to adopt a school district emergency event family reunification plan to reunite students and employees with their families in the event of an emergency.
- The State Board of Education to establish emergency drill policies and procedures.
- Comprehensive participation from all members of a school threat assessment team from start to finish, including the determination of the final disposition decision.
- Law enforcement officers responsible for responding to the school in the event of an emergency to be on campus and directly involved in the execution of emergency drills.
- Alignment of school-based diversion programs with local judicial circuit diversion programs.
- Each district school board to adopt policies to ensure the accurate and timely reporting of school safety and discipline incidents.
- The Office of Safer Schools (OSS) to include school safety specialist training information about federal and state reporting and data privacy laws.
- School safety officers to complete mental health crisis intervention training.
- The expansion of the power of school safety officers to make arrests on property owned or leased by a charter school in the district.
- A workshop to provide guidance on the implementation of mental health-related recommendations of the commission.
- Additional reporting requirements for the mental health assistance allocation.

- Methods for responding to a student with suicidal ideation, including training in suicide risk assessment and the use of suicide awareness, prevention, and screening instruments; adoption of guidelines for informing parents of suicide risk; and implementation of board policies for initiating involuntary examination of students at risk of suicide.
- Individualized Educational Plans (IEP) to include additional provisions related to post-high school transition.
- The Commissioner of Education to enforce compliance with all schools safety requirements.
- OSS to coordinate compliance with school safety incident reporting.
- The FortifyFL reporting tool to notify users of consequences for false reporting.
- The expansion of representation on the commission to include superintendents, principals, or teachers.

While the 2020 legislative session will not end until March 13, 2020, Senate Bill 7040, if it becomes law, will have some major impact on Miami-Dade County Public Schools, both financially and in the development or amendment of Board policies.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent of Schools to provide the Board with a comprehensive review of Senate Bill 7040 after the 2020 legislative session ends, by April 17, 2020, including how the proposed changes may affect School Operations, Financial Services, School Police, Board policies, and any other pertinent issues incorporated in the bill.