

# DISTRICT BEST PRACTICES ASSESSMENT 2020-2021

*Florida Safe Schools  
Assessment Tool (FSSAT)*



# FSSAT

The Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT) District Safety and Security Assessment in conjunction with the School Risk Assessments completed by all schools is intended for use by district school officials to help identify threats, vulnerabilities, and appropriate safety controls for the schools that they supervise.

Information contained in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT) is confidential and exempt from release as a public record pursuant to sections 119.071(3), 281.301, and 1006.1493(5), Florida Statutes.

# SCHOOL MEASURES

- A School Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) is completed at each school by administration and law enforcement and shared along with the active assailant response procedures with staff for their awareness.
- In addition to the SEOP, the Superintendent re-issued a directive outlining mandated safety procedures in December of 2019. The school aggregate FSSAT results indicate that the Superintendent's directives have had an impact on daily safety procedures at our schools.
- In April 2020, a third-party security consultant completed an independent appraisal of safety measures and recommendations for enhancing those measures with improvements at the building and district levels.
- District Security staff have provided emergency notification training to all school and district staff. Principals have conducted drills using RAVE with district support and have encouraged their staff to download the RAVE app. As a result, the percentage of employees who have downloaded this communication tool has increased.
- Students participate in monthly critical incident drills and monthly fire drills where they are educated on the District's General Emergency Procedures to prepare them for a variety of emergencies. Schools complete after-action reports that are reviewed by the Office of District and School Security.
- Student Crime Watch Program for reporting suspicious activity has been enhanced by the reporting tools (Crimeline's SpeakOut Hotline and FortifyFL) and are promoted by the two K-9 Officers at all our schools.



# District Assessment Results Summary

Within the past year, the district has initiated, implemented, or enhanced the following to increase school security:

- ▣ Completed a year-long independent security assessment
- ▣ Trained school Threat Assessment Teams and implemented state mandated procedures
- ▣ Added another certified Crime Analyst for intelligence gathering and social media monitoring
- ▣ Added an additional Sergeant to support SROs, Security Specialist, and other staff
- ▣ Increased the number of SRO's and Security Specialists
- ▣ Improved access control
- ▣ Provided additional fencing/gates
- ▣ Hardened vestibule/public entry
- ▣ Added and enhanced security cameras
- ▣ Increased monitoring of security cameras
- ▣ Trained and monitored security procedures
- ▣ Increased drills and exercises with local public safety response
- ▣ Provided accountability for compliance with security procedures
- ▣ Increased the frequency of suspicious activity reporting
- ▣ Provided training for bus drivers by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

The District has continued to improve the usage of the RAVE Panic Button Application for our staff as an additional emergency communication tool. Principals were given opportunities to practice using this tool during drills. In combination with Mutual Link, District Security can provide live video monitoring to local law enforcement.



# Recommendations Based on Analysis of FSSAT Data

- ❑ The Superintendent should re-issue the “Mandatory Procedures” regarding MSD Commission Recommendations and discuss these directives during a Leadership Team Meeting.
- ❑ Director of District and School Security should address all principals during a Leadership Team Meeting and review key FSSAT questions where data analysis reveals misunderstandings or a need for strengthened protocols.
- ❑ From the recommendations provided by the independent security assessment, implement procedural recommendations as appropriate at each campus, prioritize and plan for facility and technological security recommendations depending on capital funds and the renewal of sales surtax, and implement operational recommendations as funds become available.
- ❑ Continue upgrading and installing additional school security video cameras to work in conjunction with RAVE and Mutual Link to further improve law enforcement’s access to the camera system for live viewing from remote/off campus locations.
- ❑ Write school hardening grant to access the funds necessary for intercom replacements/upgrades for schools identified through the FSSAT.
- ❑ Continue the project recently initiated to upgrade locks throughout district as needed.



# Conclusion and Recommendation to the School Board

BPS principals in conjunction with local law enforcement and the district offices of Security, Facilities, Educational Technology, and Student Services have made substantial improvements in school safety; however, work still needs to be done. Approval of the recommendations presented will continue improving school and district safety and security.



# Board Recommendations to the State

If our Board has any recommendations for the Department of Education to consider recommending to the Governor, Florida Legislature, and State Board of Education regarding policy changes or funding needed to facilitate continued school safety planning, improvement, and response at the state, district, or school levels, they can be included within the FSSAT District Safety and Security Assessment.



**Robin L. Novelli**

**Chief Operating Officer**

**Brevard Public Schools**

