



Daytona Regional CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

06/13/2022

Gov. DeSantis Signs School Safety Package

Gov. DeSantis signed an update to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act to improve earlier legislation passed in previous legislative sessions, bolstering school crisis intervention and including charter schools in safety requirements.

The new law will increase the accountability of school districts and add new requirements. "Every child needs a safe and secure learning environment," DeSantis said. "By signing **HB 1421**, we continue to build on the many steps we have taken since 2019 to implement the recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Commission while also making record investments in mental health and school safety."

HB 1421 passed unanimously in both chambers.

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Bill Highlights

- Extend the term of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission from 2023 to 2025.
- Increase the powers of the Education Commissioner to enforce, rather than just oversee, school safety and security compliance.
 - Authorize safe school officers to make arrests on charter school property.
- Mandate that safe school officers complete crisis intervention and training to better respond and de-escalate situations.
 - Require law enforcement officers to be active at assailant emergency drills at school.
- Require school boards to adopt family reunification plans in the event of an evacuation to avoid the chaotic scene that unfolded after the MSD shooting.
- Require school districts to annually certify at least 80 percent of school personnel have received mandatory youth mental health awareness training.

Outside of increasing school safety, Gov. DeSantis has continued to invest in improving students' mental health. The 2022-2023 budget, signed last week, included a record \$140 million for mental health and \$210 million for school safety.