

## Information on Safety and Security Updates for 2018-19

Pinellas County Schools will implement several safety and security changes to comply with new legislation following the Parkland tragedy. It is possible you will encounter questions about these changes from students, families or members of community. The following information is designed to help you respond.

### Summary of changes:

- Students will participate in monthly age-appropriate active assailant training.
- Each school will have a School Resource Officer or an armed School Security Officer on site.
- All district staff will be trained annually on Run-Hide-Fight by law enforcement.
- All classroom doors must remain locked and latched when students are present and class is in session.
- All exterior gates must remain locked during school hours (the exception being the main visitor parking area).
- Parents will be allowed to walk students to classrooms the first week of school, Aug. 13-15, only. Beginning on Aug. 16, parents must drop off their children at the front gate, front office or car circle.
- All visitors must be cleared to enter the secure area of the school through the district's Badge Pass system and be escorted by a member of staff while on campus (the exception being volunteers with level 2 state clearance).
- Pinellas County Schools will add additional counselors, social workers and psychologists.
- The district is implementing a partnership with Sandy Hook Promise. Their mission is to promote research-based programs and practices to help protect children from gun violence in homes, schools and communities.
- New student crime watch programs in place at every school.

### FAQs:

1. **Q** – I am worried the active assailant training will traumatize my child, can they opt out?

**A** – It is required by law that the district train students on age-appropriate ways to respond to an active assailant on campus. The training was developed by law enforcement and will be guided by your student's teacher and other caring adults on campus.

2. **Q** – Why can't I walk my student to their classroom each day?

**A** – It is the expectation of law enforcement to restrict access to the school campus. Parents can walk their student to the front gate or drop their student off at the front office or car circle. School staff can help direct your student to their classroom.

3. **Q** – Where can I see the information you are sharing with my student on school safety?

**A** – For information on trainings provided to students and changes to the district's safety and security plan, visit [www.pcsb.org/safety](http://www.pcsb.org/safety).

4. **Q** – Is every school making these changes?

**A** – The district is working to ensure consistency throughout our schools. The district reviews any suggested school-specific changes to safety plans before they are approved. Once approved by the district, any changes will be vetted by law enforcement to ensure they are good for students and will keep them safe.