

# BUSINESSSAFE

*BusinessSafe is designed to aid businesses in protecting the safety and well-being of Florida's residents and visitors from threats. BusinessSafe provides private sector partners with open source information, analysis and resources to help protect their businesses and communities.*

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## BusinessSafe Highlight Educational Facilities Subsector

Educational Facilities are a subsector of the Government Facilities Sector and include pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade schools, institutions of higher education, businesses and trade schools which are both privately and publicly owned, and U.S. Department of Defense Schools. This subsector is tasked with mitigating threats to over 100,000 educational facilities housing over a million students, faculty, and staff across the United States. Protection of education facilities against threats and violence is a whole community effort. While significant steps are taken to mitigate and protect against threats to educational facilities, criminal activity and disruptions due to threats of violence still occur.

### Criminal Activity

- **Threats** - Criminal actors have use multiple tactics to threaten educational facilities, including posting threatening messages or videos on social media platforms, or call-in threats directly to the intended location. Threat types can range from bomb threats to shooting incidents to threats directed at specific people within the facility. Educational facilities use multiple mitigation and security measures to ensure student and faculty safety.

[Think Before You Post](#)

[Law Enforcement Agencies Come Together to Address School Threats and Introduce Initiative to Visit Schools](#)

### Targeted Attacks

- **Cyber** – The increased reliance on the internet, electronic devices and other technology, both in the classroom and for remote learning, has led to an uptick in cybercriminals targeting schools and institutions. While educational facilities have worked to improve their cybersecurity posture and protect their networks, they continue to be susceptible to cyberattacks that may impact operations. This may include, distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks, ransomware, and phishing attacks.

[Large Florida school district hit by ransomware attack](#)

[Student arrested for disrupting Pinellas County Schools network](#)



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- **Targeted Violence** – There have been several high-profile instances of criminal actors conducting targeted violence, including mass shooting or incendiary device incidents, in educational facilities. In response to these incidents, law enforcement and school leaders continually improve and implement multiple protection measures to ensure school safety. Mitigation techniques are also implemented such as security and training measures as well as assistance from the public on reporting potential threats to schools. Florida recently began utilizing the Guardian Program which is the use of specially trained and designated personnel to aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises.  
[Florida making progress on school safety](#)  
[Office of Safe Schools](#)  
[Guardian Program](#)

### Resources

- The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice offers resources for schools and parents on its [School Threats Awareness Campaign](#).
- The Florida Department of Education Office of School Safety offers resources and best practice advice on a variety of school safety topics on its [website](#).
- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has multiple resources for assessment, security, and resiliency of educational facilities on its [school safety and security website](#).
- The U.S. government offers actionable items for schools and districts to create safe and secure school facilities on their website, [SchoolSafety.gov](#).
- **“If You See Something, Say Something®”** – Report suspicious activity to your local law enforcement agency, on the FDLE website using [Florida’s See Something, Say Something Tool Kit](#), via the Florida See Say app, or by calling 855-FLA-Safe. In an emergency, call 911. FDLE also offers resources for [schools](#) to increase mitigation and security efforts.
- The FortifyFL App gives students, parents, and teachers a convenient way to report suspicious activity to local officials. Be ready when something suspicious happens, download the FortifyFL App today! [Download the FortifyFL App](#) – **Online Resource.**



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