

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

Criminal Activity

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 crucial to the safety of every individual within these facilities, as well as the well-being of families and communities surrounding these facilities. 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. As the school year approaches, it is important to be aware of the potential threats and risks that may arise within the Educational Facilities Subsector.

Threats

- **Targeted Violence:** There have been several high-profile instances of criminal actors [conducting targeted violence](#), including mass shootings or incendiary device incidents, in educational facilities. In response to these incidents, law enforcement and school leaders continually improve and implement multiple protective measures to ensure school safety. Mitigation techniques such as security and training measures, as well as assistance from the public on reporting potential threats to schools, are also implemented. Florida recently introduced the [Guardian Program](#) which is the use of designated, specially trained personnel to aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises. On top of this, [FortifyFL](#) offers a suspicious activity reporting app for all pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade schools.
- **Cybersecurity:** The risk of cyberattacks from malicious actors is ever present in the digital world. Every institution, including educational facilities, is at risk from cyberattacks that can disrupt essential services and potentially impact the safety of the institution. These institutions can fall victim to [ransomware](#), phishing, and other hacking methods that can exploit student and faculty member information. Educating and providing schools and



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communities with [resources to combat potential cyber threats](#) and online safety risks can make the digital world safer for everyone within the Educational Facilities Subsector.

Resources

- Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency ([CISA](#)) provides excellent resources to mitigate threats to the Educational Facilities Subsector.
- The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice offers resources for schools and parents in its [School Threats Awareness Campaign](#).
- The Florida Department of Education ([FLDOE](#)) Office of School Safety offers resources and best practice advice on a variety of school safety topics.
- The U.S. government offers actionable items for schools and districts to create safe and secure school facilities on their website, [SchoolSafety.gov](#).
- The [FortifyFL App](#) gives students, parents, and teachers a convenient way to report suspicious activity to local officials.
- “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.



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