

# Issue Brief

## Student Safety



## Support HB 79 and SB 0650 to ensure safety for thousands of students today!

### Highlights of the Student Elopement Bills:

1. Creates a Staff Assistance for Emergencies (SAFE) Team and school elopement plan.
2. Requires and provides requirements for elopement reference guides.
3. Requires public schools to annually submit their elopement safety plans to their district school board.
4. Creates “Code Gray” which will alert all school personnel to an elopement

### What is Elopement?

**Elopement:** a student with disabilities wanders away, walks away, runs away, escapes, or otherwise leaves the supervision of school staff or leaves school grounds unsupervised or unnoticed before the end of his or her scheduled school day.

**SAFE team:** Team consisting of the school principal, assistant principal, and five other members appointed by the principle who will create the school elopement plan and respond to an elopement

### Why do we need a state law to protect our students?

Elopement is a dangerous behavior

- Especially in Florida, elopement is closely tied to the problem of drowning.
- According to the National Autism Association, 71% of wandering/elopement cases for persons with autism resulted in lethal drowning between 2011-2016
- Non-lethal drowning incidences result in trauma for children with autism who survive the incident

Student Elopement (H.B. 79 and S.B. 0650) was introduced to Congress on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019. This bill would introduce safety and planning protocols for students with behavior needs.

