



JIMMY PATRONIS

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
STATE FIRE MARSHAL
STATE OF FLORIDA

To: All Florida Fire Chiefs and Fire Marshals

From: Division of State Fire Marshal

Date: November 1, 2018

Re: Inspections of Private Schools

During the 2018 Legislative session, the Florida Legislature passed, and Governor Scott signed, House Bill 7055. One of the provisions of HB7055 amended Section 1002.421, Florida Statutes to require the Florida Department of Education to “coordinate with the State Fire Marshal to obtain access to fire inspection reports for private schools. The authority conducting the fire safety inspections shall certify to the State Fire Marshal that the annual inspection has been completed and that the school is in full compliance. The certification shall be made electronically or by such other means as directed by the State Fire Marshal.” This new provision went into effect on July 1, 2018 and applies to fire inspections for all K12 private schools that participate in at least one of Florida’s K12 scholarship programs.

The Florida Department of Education worked with the State Fire Marshal over the spring and summer to develop a system for the electronic reporting of fire inspections for private schools that participate in one of the state’s K12 scholarship programs. The Florida Public Schools Online Reporting System was modified to receive not only inspections of public schools but also private schools meeting HB7055’s requirements. As of December 1, 2018, local AHJ’s conducting inspections of private schools participating in K12 scholarship programs should log on to the Florida Public Schools Online Reporting System and complete an inspection entry for each private school inspected. It would also be helpful to the Department of Education to retroactively upload the results of any inspection conducted on these schools after July 1, 2018. To assist with the process of registering on the website, the State Fire Marshal has created a User Manual. The Florida Public Schools Online Reporting System and User Manual can be found at <https://www.myfloridacfo.com/Division/SFM/bfp/SchoolFireSafety.htm>. Questions about the system can be sent to FirePrevention@myfloridacfo.com.

A full directory of K12 private schools, including their participation status in the K12 scholarship programs, can be found at <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/information/privateschooldirectory/>. Questions about participating private schools can be sent to SchoolChoice@fldoe.org.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

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