



Rick Staly, Sheriff

## FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

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# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** Thursday, March 8, 2018

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## **Sheriff, Superintendent Give Flagler School Security Update**

Sheriff Rick Staly, Flagler Schools Superintendent James Tager, and School Board Chairman Trevor Tucker held a joint press briefing on Thursday to discuss updated security measures and proposed security changes for Flagler County Public Schools.

Superintendent Tager spoke of the need for thirteen School Resource Deputies at the nine Flagler County public schools, up from the six SRDs currently assigned. He also spoke of security measures already in place including single-entry systems to the schools and automatic-locking doors. All schools routinely practice safety drills, have screening processes at the front offices, keep classroom doors locked during the school day, and have school psychologists on school campuses. The school board is also looking at a variety of additional security features to add to each of the schools for the protection of students and faculty.



Flagler Schools Superintendent James Tager and Sheriff Rick Staly.

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Sheriff Staly echoed the need to increase SRDs at every public school as well as working with private and charter schools to have deputies on those campuses. Increasing the number of SRDs will not only provide increased security but would also allow for drug resistance education in elementary schools and gang resistance education in middle schools. Additionally, SRDs will have the opportunity to build better relationships with the students to help keep them on a safe and productive path.

Aside from the changes that can be made by school administrators and the Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Staly urged parents to monitor their child's social media accounts, emails, and behaviors closely. "Parents must be involved," Sheriff Staly said. "As Sheriff, I am the chief law enforcement officer in the county, but parents must be the chief law enforcement officer of their home and with their children. It is time that parents be parents again and not just friends with their children. Get involved in your child's life before it's too late."

Sheriff Staly has directed his deputies to increase patrol in the schools while not on calls for service or other assignments. Since February 15, the Sheriff's Office has responded to 21 threats at Flagler County schools. One case has resulted in an arrest. The others continue to be investigated for credibility and evidence. The Sheriff promised zero tolerance on threats to schools or any other establishments. If these threats are made, Sheriff's Deputies will make arrests and charge the suspect with a felony offense under Florida law.

"We train for the worst," Sheriff Staly said. "We pray that we never need it. But I want you to know that your Sheriff's Office is prepared and ready to respond. We will immediately respond and engage to stop the threat."

If you see something, say something. You may prevent a crime before it occurs. Any suspicious activity should be reported to the Flagler County Sheriff's Office immediately by calling 9-1-1 for an emergency or 386-313-4911 for a non-emergency. Tips can be submitted through Crime Stoppers at 1-888-277-TIPS (8477) or by emailing [TIPS@flaglersheriff.com](mailto:TIPS@flaglersheriff.com).

The full video of the press conference can be viewed here:  
<https://www.facebook.com/flaglercounty.sheriffsoffice>

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