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## Sheriff Bobby Schultz Offers Input



Gilchrist County Sheriff Bobby Schultz participates in Gov. Rick Scott's Law Enforcement Work Group to Keep Florida Students Safe, which was held at the Florida Sheriffs Association headquarters in Tallahassee. Approximately 40 state and local law enforcement officials, along with representatives from the Governor's Office and Attorney General Pam Bondi's Office, assembled to discuss plans and initiatives for immediate and long-term solutions that would help protect children and school employees. Sheriff Schultz spoke about the needs of Gilchrist County and other rural counties as it pertains to training, funding and mandatory, regular school safety assessments conducted by outside entities (law enforcement, or professional equivalent), and the feasibility of creating a Training Task Force of Florida Sheriff's Office specifically for active shooter response for law enforcement. Schultz reiterated his call for more funding for the state's Safe School funding. Among the other issues discussed included Sheriff Grady Judd of Polk County providing details of his county's Sentinel program, which allows sheriffs' offices to train armed, volunteers to stand guard at school property, specifically to detour and respond in the event of an active shooting incident. Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri expressed concern about the process to keep firearms out of the hands of mentally-impaired persons. Sheriff Wayne Ivey of Brevard County discussed the needs of training initiatives. Okaloosa County Sheriff Larry Ashley discussed needs to fortify schools to make them more secure, as well as the need to have a deputy sheriff in all public schools. Sheriff Schultz said the discussions were both beneficial and productive, and that the issues brought forth are all being addressed.

Published Feb.20, 2018 at 1:28 p.m.

*Photo and Information Provided by Gilchrist County Sheriff Bobby Schultz*

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## **Gilchrist County school properties reopen Saturday**

**By Jeff M. Hardison © Feb. 16, 2018 at 11:08 p.m.**

**TRENTON** -- Although Gilchrist County Superintendent of Schools Robert Rankin announced that Gilchrist County schools were closed Friday (Feb. 16), Sheriff Bobby Schultz and Superintendent Rankin announced Friday night that school activities that had been scheduled for the weekend through the Monday holiday and teacher workday will continue as planned.

Any games, extracurricular or previously planned administrative activities from Saturday (Feb. 17) through Tuesday (Feb. 20) are on a normal schedule again, and with the resumption of regular classes on Wednesday (Feb. 21), the current plan is for normal school academic operations to resume in Gilchrist County as well.

Levy County and Dixie County schools were open Friday, and there is no notice of those counties changing normal operations. The Dixie County Sheriff's Office arrested a suspected adult male thief late Friday afternoon. That suspect is alleged to have stolen things from a middle school locker room in Dixie County on Thursday.

School in Gilchrist County was cancelled for Friday (Feb. 16) due to "an email threat," according to Gilchrist County Sheriff Schultz.

There are no school classes Saturday and Sunday. The Monday holiday is being observed and Tuesday is a planned "Teacher Work Day."

Like other Florida sheriffs, Sheriff Schultz plans to continue to uphold the laws of the state, including laws that are meant to prevent people from threatening, hurting or killing others.

Rankin and Schultz felt the safest method for Friday was to keep students away from the schools in Gilchrist County due to the danger they perceived from the "email threat."

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## **Levy County schools stay open Friday; *Arrest made in South Carolina***

**By Levy County Sheriff Bobby McCallum  
and Levy County Superintendent of Schools Jeff Edison  
Published Feb. 16, 2018 at 6:28 a.m.**

**PUBLISHER'S NOTE:** The following was sent by Levy County Sheriff's Office Lt. Scott Tummond at 12:08 a.m. on Friday (Feb. 16).

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The following message is being sent as a combined notification with our partners in the Levy County School Board. Please know that both the Sheriff's Office and the Levy County School Board take the safety and security of "OUR" children when both on and off our campuses very serious. WE will react quickly and appropriately to any and all real or perceived threats.

Good Afternoon Parents,

This evening Gilchrist County and other school districts in Florida received a threat

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that they could not verify and Gilchrist closed schools. The School Board of Levy County has not received this threat. The Levy County Sheriff's Office is monitoring social media and investigating any suspicious activity concerning Levy County schools.

Currently a viral photo is being passed around through Snapchat. This photo has been reported to the LCSO as well as other Florida law enforcement agencies. The photo has been addressed by authorities in South Carolina and an arrest was made. We want to thank our parents for helping us keep our vigil and ensure the safety of all our children.

The LCSO and the Levy County School Board sends this strong message to anyone who makes a threat of violence directed toward our children and our schools. "We will seek you out, arrest you and you will be prosecuted to the fullest extent the law will allow us to."

Parents, students and concerned citizens. Please, if you see something, say something. Report suspicious activity to the LCSO at 352-486-5111 or if it is an emergency call 9-1-1.

**Sheriff Bobby McCallum**

**Superintendent Jeff Edison**