



School Resource Officers in Virginia



Virginia Department of
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Introduction & Background



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Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

School Safety Statistics

*2014-15

National Center for Education
Statistics



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Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

What is increasing in schools?

- Security personnel and SROs increasing since 2005.
- Schools are aware and prepared. Percentage of schools that had a plan in place in the event of shooting increase from 79 to 92 percent.





Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

What is decreasing?

- Less likely to be murdered in school but suicide is 2nd leading cause of death among youth.
- 20 of 1,168 homicides of school age students occurred at school.
- 9 suicides at school compared with 1,785 total suicides for school aged youth.



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Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

What is **decreasing**?

- Students who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property
- Gangs at school are decreasing, from 20 to 11 percent.
- Hate related graffiti decreased.
- Bullying decreased from 28 to 21 percent.



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What else is decreasing?

- Physical fighting decreased from 16 to 8 percent.
- Students who reported carrying weapons decreased from 12 to 4 percent.
- Students who reported having access to gun decreased from 7 to 4 percent.



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- Students feel safe at school. Students who reported being afraid of attack or harm at school decreased from 12 to 3 percent.

BUT.....

- SROs and security personnel increasing. Is there a connection?



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Intro & Background

Virginia SRO Program

- SROs were placed in Virginia schools beginning in mid 1980s.
- DCJS began funding SROs through Byrne funding in mid 1990s and offering SRO training.
- Provide law enforcement services to K-12 public schools.



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Intro & Background

1999 - Columbine

2000

- Established the Virginia Center for School Safety (VA Code § 9.1-184)
- Placed at the VA Department of Criminal Justice Services
- Provide services to K-12 public schools



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Legislation



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Legislation

§ 9.1-184: Center is responsible for:

- Providing **training** for all school personnel.
- Serving as a **resource and referral center** and providing technical assistance for Virginia school divisions.
- Facilitating the annual **school safety audit** pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-279.8.
- **Maintaining and disseminating information** to local school divisions on effective school safety initiatives in Virginia and across the nation.
- Encouraging **development of partnerships** to promote school safety in Virginia.





Legislation

- **§ 9.1-110. School Resource Officer Grants Program and Fund.**
- \$1.5 million appropriated.
- Funds SROs/SSOs position salaries in elementary, middle and high schools.
- Match based on composite index.
- Awards limited to \$50,000 per SRO position, \$22,500 per SSO position.



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Legislation

- Additional mandates added to Center responsibilities over time as applicable.
- School security officer training and certification - 2004.
- School safety audits – 2005.
- Funding for the SRO Grant Program ended in 2008



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Legislation

2012 – December – Sandy Hook

**2013 – School and Campus Safety
Task Force**

- Plethora of changes to include:
 - Renamed the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety
 - Mandated K12 Threat Assessment teams to serve each public school
 - Critical Incident Response Curriculum
 - Emergency Managers in each school division
 - Model Threat Assessment Policies and Procedures
 - Lockdown drills



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Legislation

2015 – Center for Public Integrity - Governor’s Children’s Cabinet

- School- Law Enforcement Partnership Guide and Model MOU

2017

- SSO legislation changed to allow armed SSO positions if
 - Retired from law enforcement within last 10 years
 - Provides proof of active shooter, threat assessment, and emergency evacuation training.



Legislation

§ 9.1-101 defines a SRO **FOR** purposes of grant funding:

- A certified law-enforcement officer
- Hired by local law-enforcement agency
- Provides law-enforcement and security services to public elementary and secondary schools
- Police Departments and Sheriff's Offices can place any officer in a school as they deem appropriate.
- There is not a separate certification for SROs





Legislation

§ 9.1-101 defines a **School Security Officer**:

- Employed by local school board.
- Maintains order and discipline, prevents crime, investigates violations of school board policies.
- Detains students violating the law or school board policies on school property or at school-sponsored events.
- Ensures safety, security, and welfare of school students, faculty, staff and visitors.



Legislation

§ 22.1-280.2:1

- within 10 years immediately prior to being hired by the local school board he was an active law-enforcement officer as defined in § 9.1-101 in the Commonwealth;
- school board grants him the authority to carry a firearm
- retired or resigned from his position as a law-enforcement officer in good standing;





Legislation

- meets the training and qualifications described in subsection C of § 18.2-308.016;
- provided proof of completion of a training course that includes training in active shooter emergency response, emergency evacuation procedure, and threat assessment to DCJS



Legislation

- local school board solicits input from the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality regarding the qualifications of the school security officer and receives verification from such chief law-enforcement officer that the school security officer is not prohibited by state or federal law from possessing, purchasing, or transporting a firearm;



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Legislation

School Resource Officer	School Security Officer
1. Law enforcement agency employee	1. School employee
2. Complying with federal, state and local statutes	2. Complying with/guided by local school policies and regulations
3. Under direction of law enforcement command	3. Under direction of local school principal or designee
4. Assigned to school and community activities	4. Primarily assigned to school campus activities
5. Responsible for enforcing state law	5. Responsible for enforcing school policy
6. Responsible for custody and arrest in conformance with law	6. Responsible for detaining individuals
7. Search must be in accordance with State and Federal law	7. Can search students and others based upon reasonable suspicion
8. Laws and custody requirement procedures apply	8. May detain and question students
9. Act under the standards of law	9. Act in absence of parents (<i>in loco parentis</i>)
10. Use of force permissible as guided by department policy	10. Use of force should be limited and only used in accordance with local school policy





Virginia Data on School Resource Officers



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Virginia Data

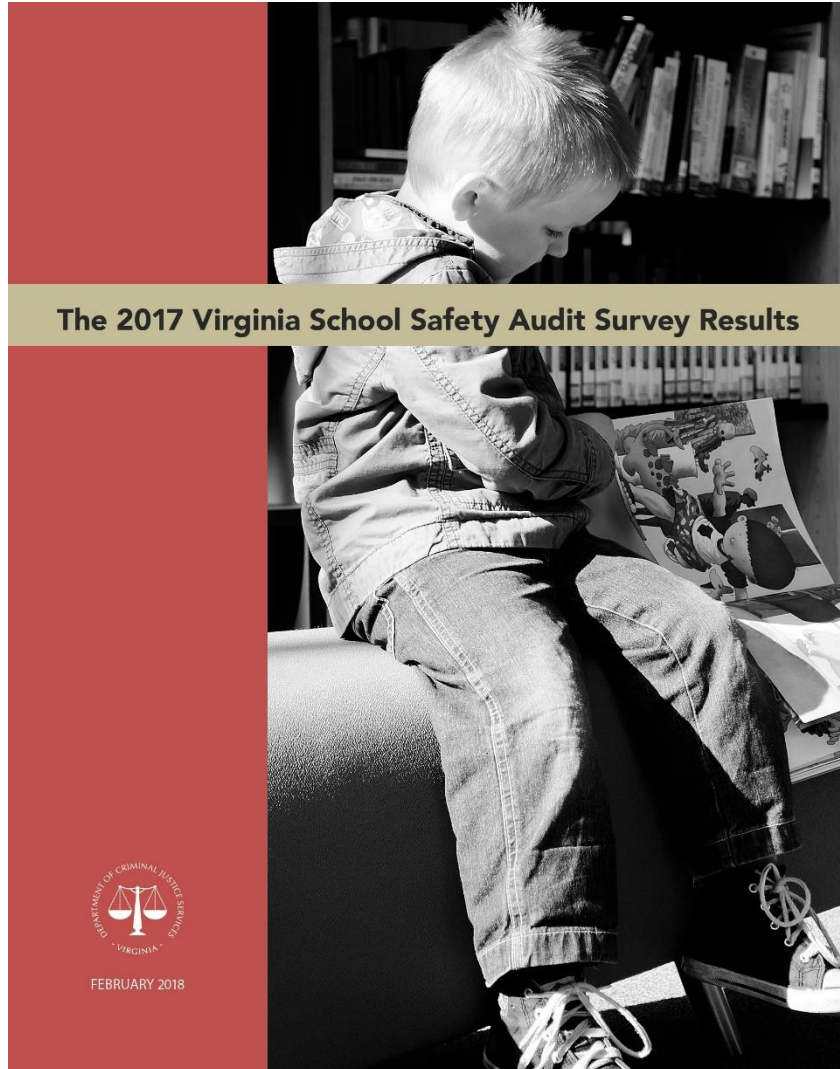
- Facilitate the annual school safety audit pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-279.8
- Audit data provides picture of school safety in Virginia to drive best practices and improve school safety for school administrators and first responders.



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Virginia Data



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Schools in Virginia 2015-2017

Type of School	2015	2016	2017
Elementary	1,106	1,111	1,104
Middle	341	337	338
High	319	315	317
Other	194	198	197
Total Schools	1,960	1,961	1,956



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Source: DCJS 2017 Statewide School Safety Audit Survey



Total Number of Schools with Full-Time School Resource Officers

Type of School	2015	2016	2017
Elementary	34 (3%)	43 (4%)	37 (3%)
Middle	248 (72%)	246 (73%)	231 (68%)
High	271 (85%)	266 (84%)	250 (79%)
Other	57 (29%)	62 (31%)	66 (34%)
Total Schools	610 (31%)	617 (31%)	584 (30%)





Total Number of Schools with Part-Time School Resource Officers

Type of School	2015	2016	2017
Elementary	326 (29%)	342 (31%)	334 (30%)
Middle	58 (17%)	67 (20%)	58 (17%)
High	29 (9%)	29 (9%)	28 (9%)
Other	52 (27%)	51 (26%)	43 (21%)
Total Schools	465 (24%)	489 (25%)	463 (24%)





Total Number of Schools with FT and PT School Resource Officers

Type of School	2015	2016	2017
Elementary	358 (32%)	381 (34%)	371 (34%)
Middle	305 (89%)	305 (91%)	286 (85%)
High	298 (93%)	291 (92%)	276 (87%)
Other	106 (55%)	109 (55%)	107 5 (4%)
Total Schools	1067 (54%)	1086 (55%)	1040 (53%)

Source: DCJS 2017 Statewide School Safety Audit Survey



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Total Number of Schools with Full-Time School Security Officers

Type of School	2015	2016	2017
Elementary	64 (6%)	71 (6%)	58 (5%)
Middle	97 (28%)	89 (26%)	85 (25%)
High	141 (44%)	135 (43%)	124 (39%)
Other	38 (20%)	43 (22%)	38 (19%)
Total Schools	340 (17%)	338 (17%)	305 (16%)

Source: DCJS 2017 Statewide School Safety Audit Survey





Total Number of Schools with Part-Time School Security Officers

Type of School	2015	2016	2017
Elementary	29 (3%)	35 (3%)	38 (3%)
Middle	10 (3%)	9 (3%)	6 (2%)
High	15 (5%)	11 (3%)	14 (4%)
Other	8 (4%)	9 (5%)	7 (4%)
Total Schools	62 (3%)	64 (3%)	65 (3%)

Source: DCJS 2017 Statewide School Safety Audit Survey



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SRO Role in Virginia K₁₂ Threat Assessment Teams



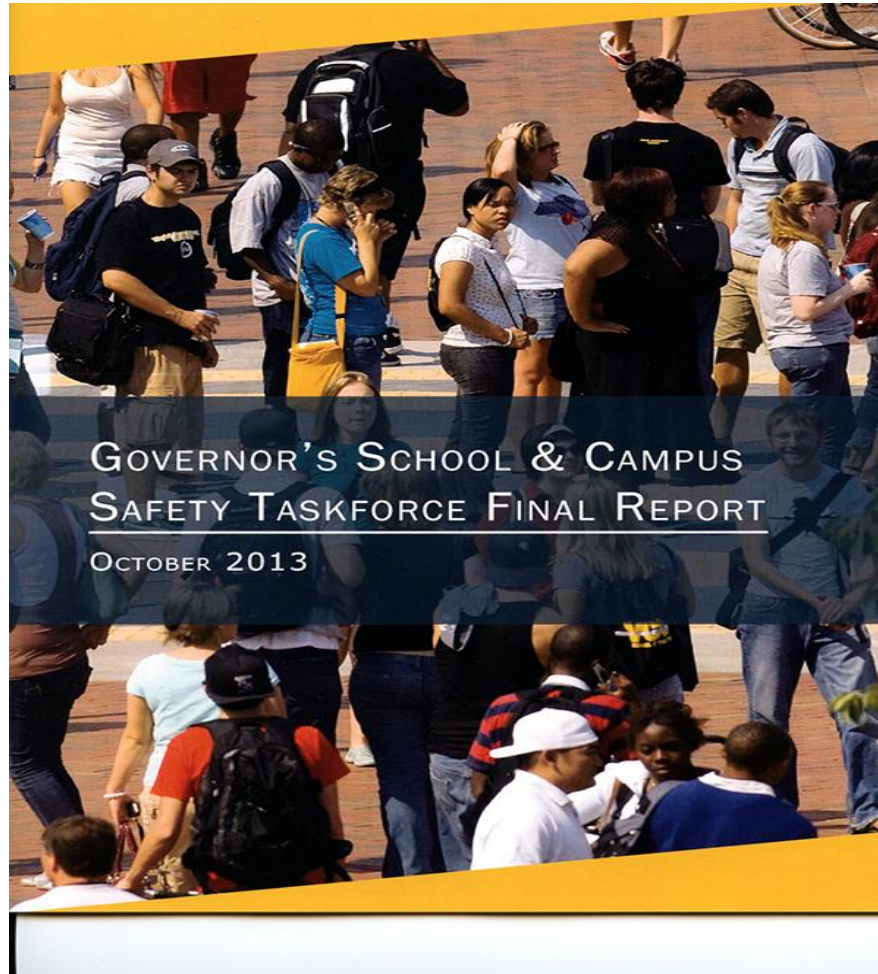
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How Did We Get Here?

Summary of 2013 Governor's School and Campus and General Assembly Actions



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Threat Assessment

Threat Assessment is a preventative system, not punitive, meant to intervene with individuals posing a risk of harm to self or others and get them off of a pathway to violence.



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Threat Assessment

VIRGINIA CARES FOR SCHOOLS & CAMPUSES

C.A.R.E.S. involves communities working together to build:

Caring & Connection

Awareness

Recognition

Engagement

Support



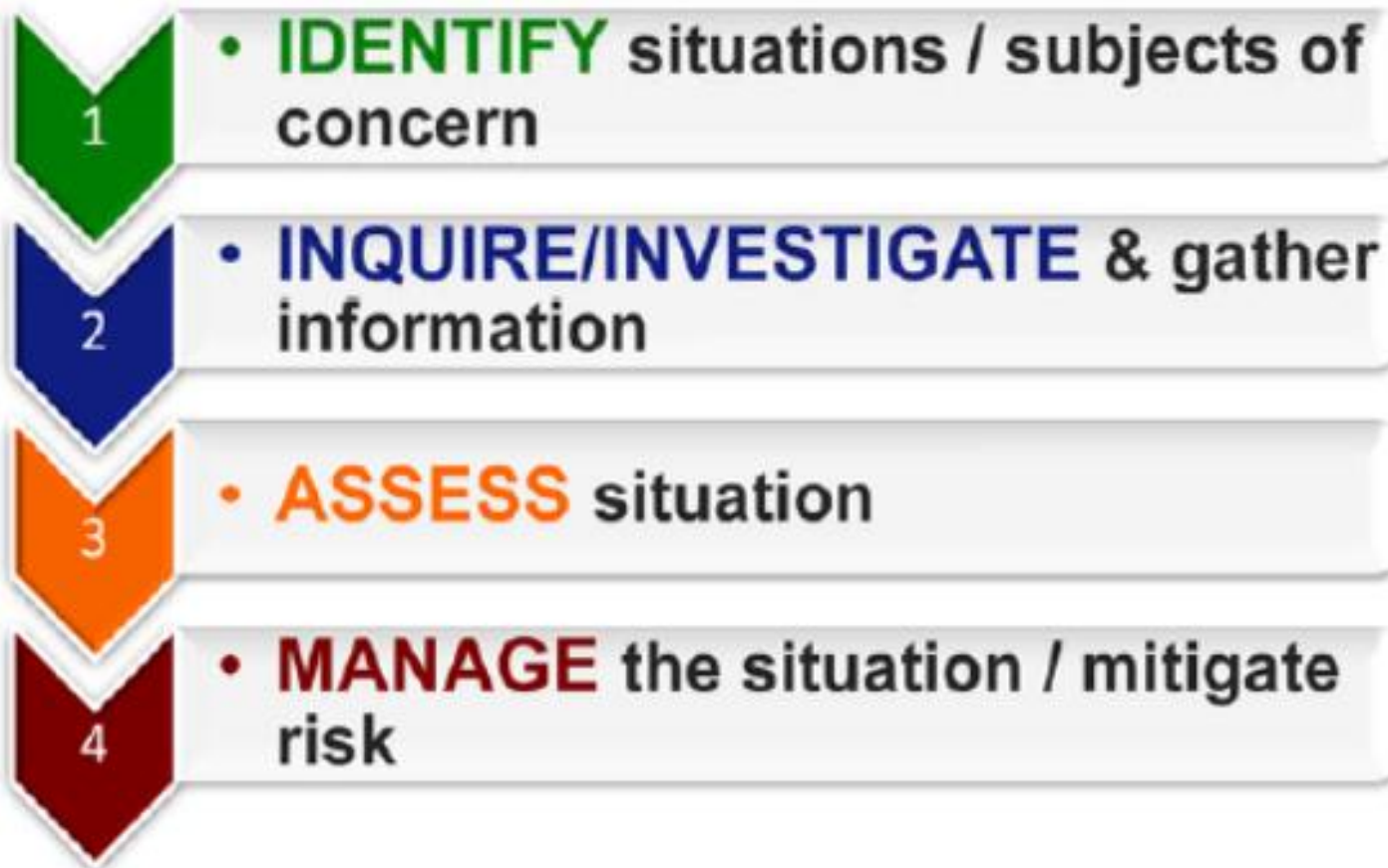
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What is Threat Assessment?

A systematic process that is designed to:





Threat Assessment

Virginia law (§ 22.1-79.4) requires threat assessment teams for public schools:

- Each local school board shall adopt policies for the establishment of threat assessment teams
 - Including the assessment of and intervention with **individuals** whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of **self or others**
 - Consistent with the model policies developed by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety in accordance with § 9.1-184.
 - Such policies must include procedures for referrals to community service boards and health providers where appropriate.





Threat Assessment

The superintendent of each school division shall establish a threat assessment team for each school.

- Each team shall include persons with expertise in:
 - Counseling
 - Instruction
 - School administration
 - **Law enforcement**
- Threat assessment teams may serve more than one school (as determined by the superintendent).





Threat Assessment

Each threat assessment team shall:

- Provide guidance to students, faculty, and staff on recognizing threatening /aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self;
- Identify members of the school community to whom threats should be reported;
- Implement policies adopted by school board for threat assessment;
- Report quantitative data on its activities according to guidance developed by the Department of Criminal Justice Services.



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Threat Assessment

Upon a preliminary determination that a **student** poses a threat of violence or physical harm to **self or others**, the team shall:

- Immediately report its determination to the division superintendent or designee.
- The division superintendent or designee shall immediately attempt to notify the student's parent or legal guardian.
- Nothing in this subsection shall preclude school division personnel from acting immediately to address an imminent threat.



Threat Assessment

2016-17 Data

- Nearly two-thirds of schools (1,285, 66%) reported conducting one or more threat assessments in 2016–2017.
- These schools conducted a total of 9,238 threat assessments, most of which involved students currently enrolled at the schools (9,087, 98%).



Threat Assessment

2016-17 Data

- **Half of the threats from current students involved threats against self only (suicide, self harm), 45% involved threats against others only, and 5% involved threats against others and self.**



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Threat Assessment

- Threats involving current students
- The schools that reported threat assessments involving students currently enrolled in their school were asked to identify the type of threat made by the student(s). The 1,161 schools that conducted 8,168 threat assessments involving these students reported the following:
 - Threatened self only 4,085 cases (50%)
 - Threatened other(s) only 3,640 cases (45%)
 - Threatened other(s) and self 443 cases (5%)



Threat Assessment

- SROs are a vital link between the schools and community and can provide valuable resources to assist the family and connect them to services.
- LEOs/SRO's are intimately familiar with the ECO process as well as CPS and can facilitate those connections as appropriate



Threat Assessment

- LEOs/SROs are experienced in dealing with youth in crisis and can be a stabilizing influence.
- Some students will find SRO's safer to open up with than MHP in schools or school administrators.



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Trainings and Conferences



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Trainings and Conferences

Annually the Center delivers:

- 6-8 conferences
- 150 -200 training events
- 6,500- 8,500 constituents



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Trainings and Conferences

Constituencies

- 132 public school superintendents
- 2,200 school administrators
- 4,500 assistant school administrators
- 120,000 teachers and school staff
- 69 colleges and universities
- 42 campus law enforcement agencies
- 367 law enforcement agencies
- 23,000 law enforcement officers
- 780 School Resource Officers
- 1,200 School Security Officers
- 600 Campus Security Officers



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Trainings and Conferences

K12 Conferences: Specifically in support of SROs/ SSOs/ school administrators:

1. The Briefings (April 2018)
2. School and Campus Safety Training Forum (August 2018)
3. School Safety Symposium (August 2018)
4. Strengthening Connections (November 2018)



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Trainings and Conferences

School Safety

- School Resource Officer and School Administrator Training
- Adult Sexual Misconduct in Schools
- Bomb Threat Management in Schools
- Human Trafficking for Schools
- K12 Threat Assessment
- Legal and Liability Considerations in School Safety
- Disability Awareness for Law Enforcement Officers



Trainings and Conferences

School Safety

- High in Plain Sight: Recognition and Awareness of Current Drug Trends
- Next Steps in Crisis Management Planning
- Critical Incident Response
- Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events
- Gang Awareness for School Personnel
- Title IX Investigations and the Role of the Office for Civil Rights
- So What's Wrong with Kids These Days? An Exploration of What We Can Do to Support Children in a Complicated World”.





Trainings and Conferences

School Safety

- Managing Difficult Situations with Parents and Students
- De-escalation Training
- Social Media for Educators
- Title IX Investigations and the Role of the Office for Civil Rights
- Trauma Informed Discipline Practices
- Restorative Justice Practices
- Impact of Implicit Biases
- Autism Awareness for Law Enforcement Officers





Resources



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Resources



Virginia School-Law Enforcement Partnership Guide

May 2017



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Virginia School-Law Enforcement Partnership Model Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

May 2017



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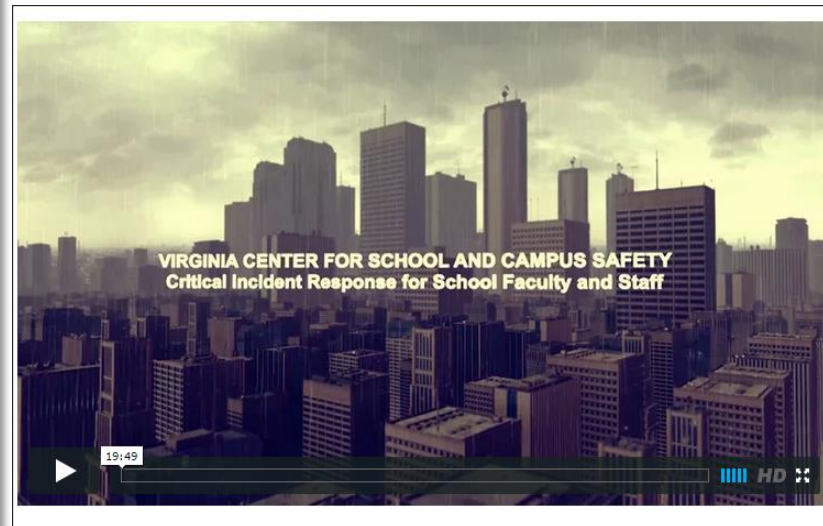
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Resources

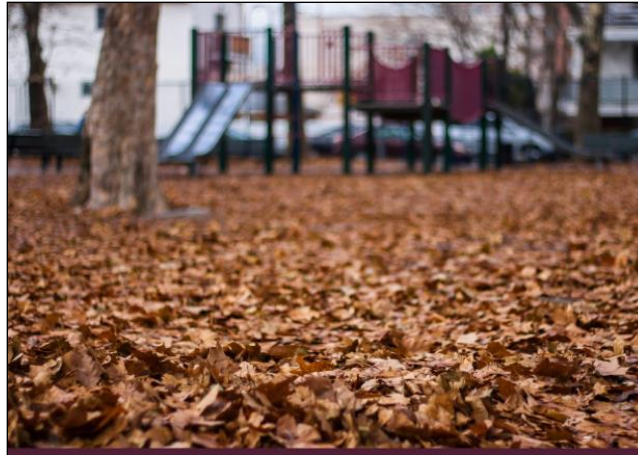


Critical Incident Response for
School Faculty and Staff



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Resources



The Virginia Educator's Guide for
Planning and Conducting School Emergency Drills



DRAFT



2014

Virginia Juvenile Law Handbook
for School Administrators

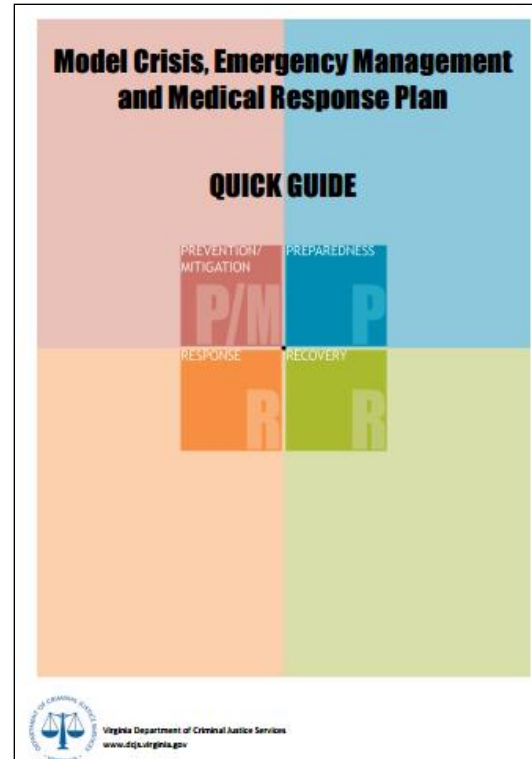


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Resources



- Guidance documents for all resources and legislation



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Resources



Threat Assessment in Virginia Public Schools: Model Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines



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2013
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2014 School Safety Inspection Checklist for Virginia Public Schools



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Resources



K-12 Threat Assessment in Virginia

A Prevention Overview for School Staff,
Parents, and Community Members



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- K12 Threat Assessment Prevention Manual & Video

Resources



- John More,
Response Law
- Multiple workshops
and trainings over
the next year,
including
 - SABeR
 - K 12 Threat
Assessment: Legal
Aspects of Threat
Assessment Teams



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Resources

Virginia specific curriculums:

- SRO, School Administrator, and SSO curriculum
- K12 Threat Assessment
- Disability Awareness for Law Enforcement Officers Training Curriculum
- Autism Awareness for Law Enforcement Officers
- Adult Sexual Misconduct



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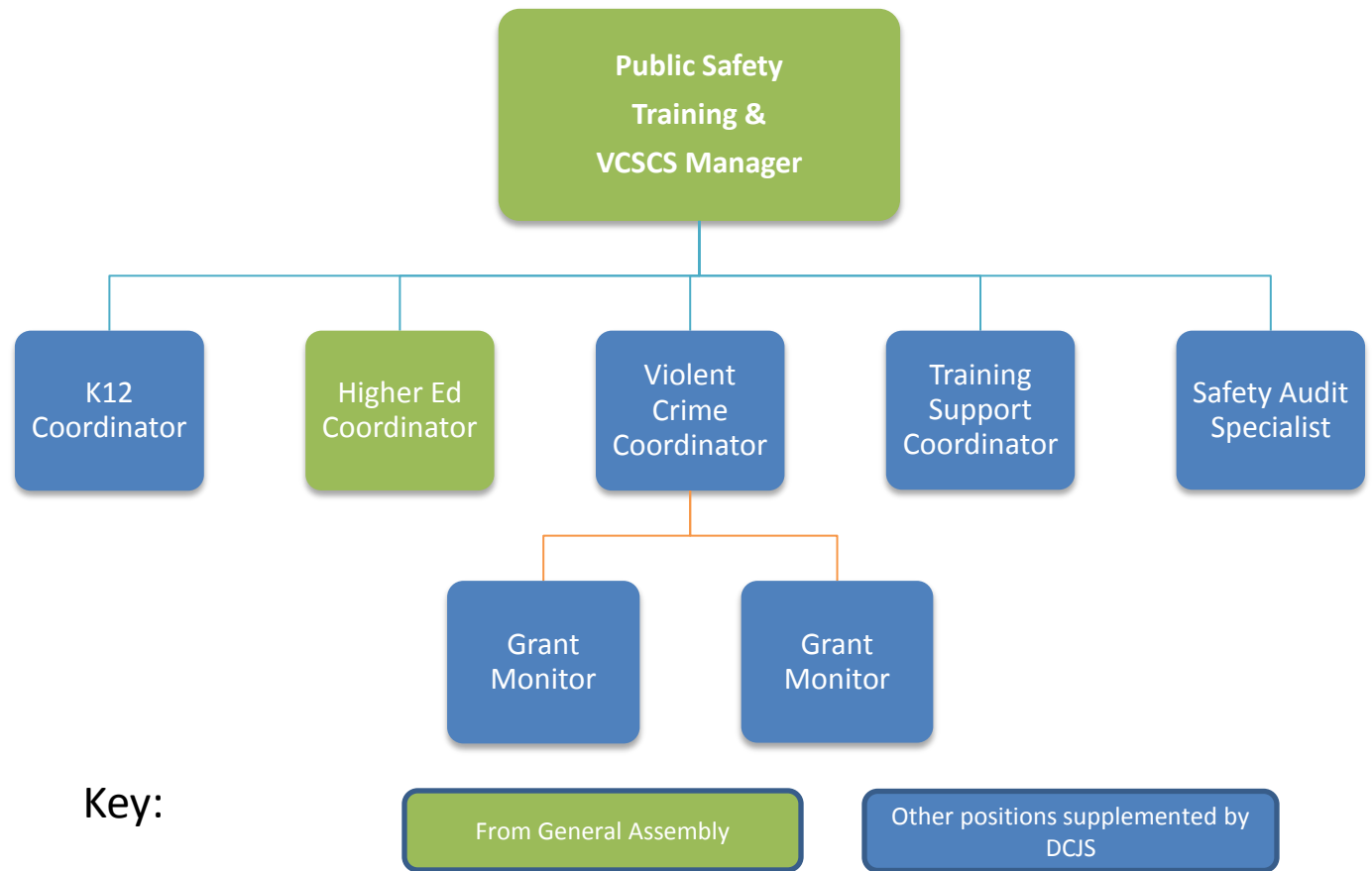
Research

- **DCJS Research Team**
- National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Grant on School Climate (University of VA (UVA))
- **NIJ Grant on School to Prison Pipeline (VA Tech)**
- NIJ Grant on School Threat Assessment (UVA)
- **NIJ Grant to Study SROs (VA Tech)**
- College Threat Assessment Study





VA Center for School and Campus Safety Organizational Chart





QUESTIONS?

We are here to help!

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