



Department of Criminal Justice Services

Virginia Center for School & Campus Safety

Governor's Children's Cabinet Student Safety Workgroup July 19, 2018



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Criminal Justice Services

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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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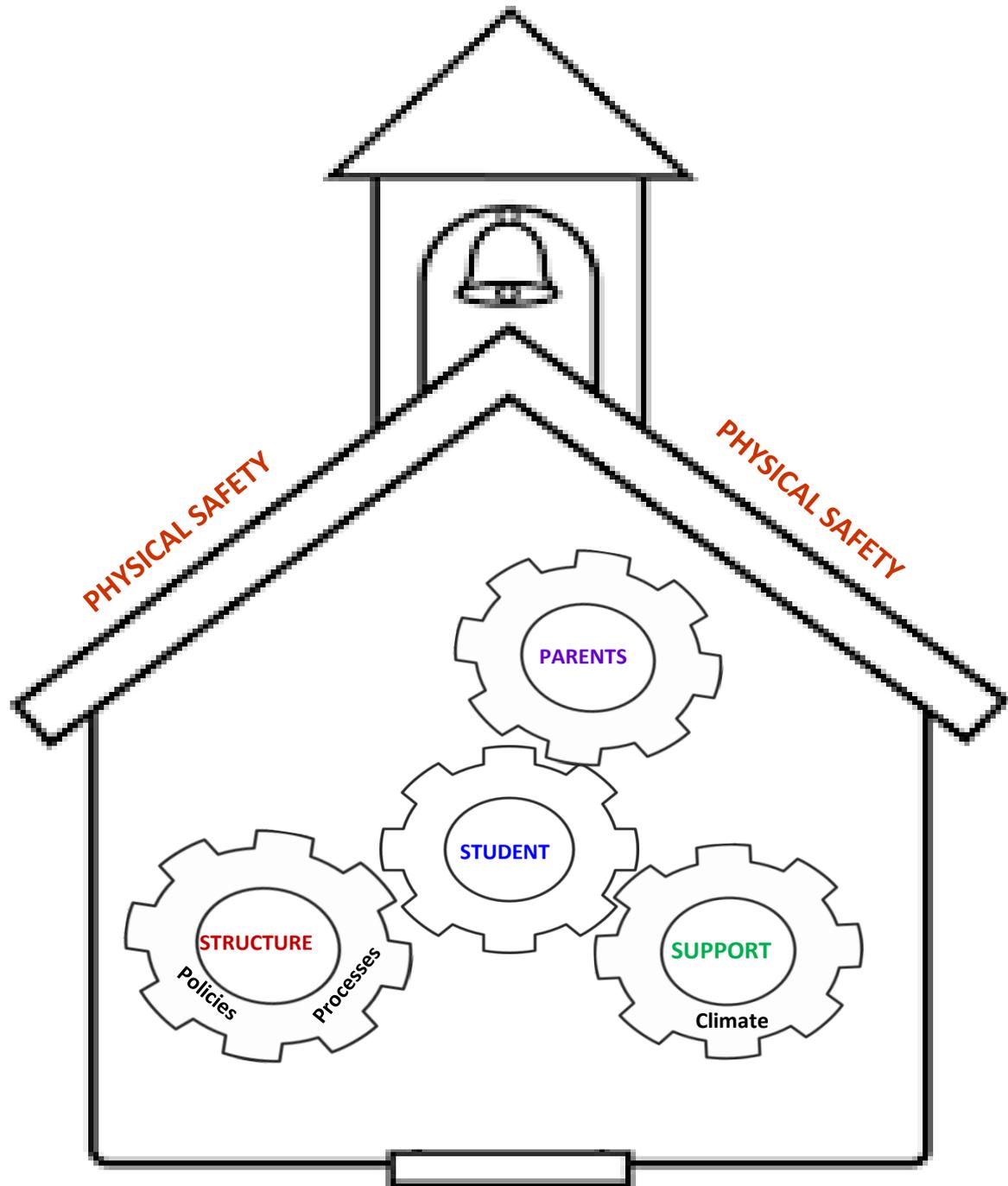
School Safety in Virginia

- Local educational control
- State Level Mandates
 - Physical (physical deterrents)
 - Structural (policies and processes)
 - Support (climate and engagement)



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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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Legislation



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Legislation

1999 - Columbine

2000

- Established the Virginia Center for School Safety (Va. Code § 9.1-184)
- Placed at DCJS
- Provide services to K-12 public schools



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Legislation

Center is responsible for:

K12

- 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



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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.



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Legislation

Higher education

2006

- DCJS to develop minimum standards for campus security officers (responsibility transferred to Center in 2009).
- DCJS to establish an **advisory committee** ...to assist in the development of the standards and certification requirements and training
- Provide technical assistance on a variety of issues relevant to IHEs.



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Legislation

2007 – Virginia Tech

2008

- Center began providing training for institutions of higher education in response to legislation requiring them to establish Threat Assessment Teams.
- Training provided at the request of the campus advisory committee.



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Legislation

2012 – December – Sandy Hook

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

- Plethora of other changes to include:
 - Renamed the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety
 - K12 Threat Assessment teams
 - Critical Incident Response Curriculum
 - Emergency managers
 - Model 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

2016

- DCJS is required to develop multidisciplinary curricula on trauma-informed sexual assault investigation; Center tasked with development
- No funding allocated



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School Resource Officers & School Security Officers in Virginia



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Legislation

Virginia SRO Program

- SROs in Virginia schools in mid 1980s
- DCJS began funding SROS through Byrne funding in mid 1990s and offering SRO training
- Provide services to K-12 public schools



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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 SSO:

- 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



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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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Roles of SRO and SSO

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



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





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%)



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Source: DCJS 2017 Statewide School Safety Audit Survey



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



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Threat Assessment in Virginia Public Schools



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Threat Assessment

- After Columbine, many K-12 schools across the country implemented threat assessment voluntarily.
- In 2008, after the Virginia Tech tragedy, Virginia mandated threat assessment teams and violence prevention committees in institutions of higher education.



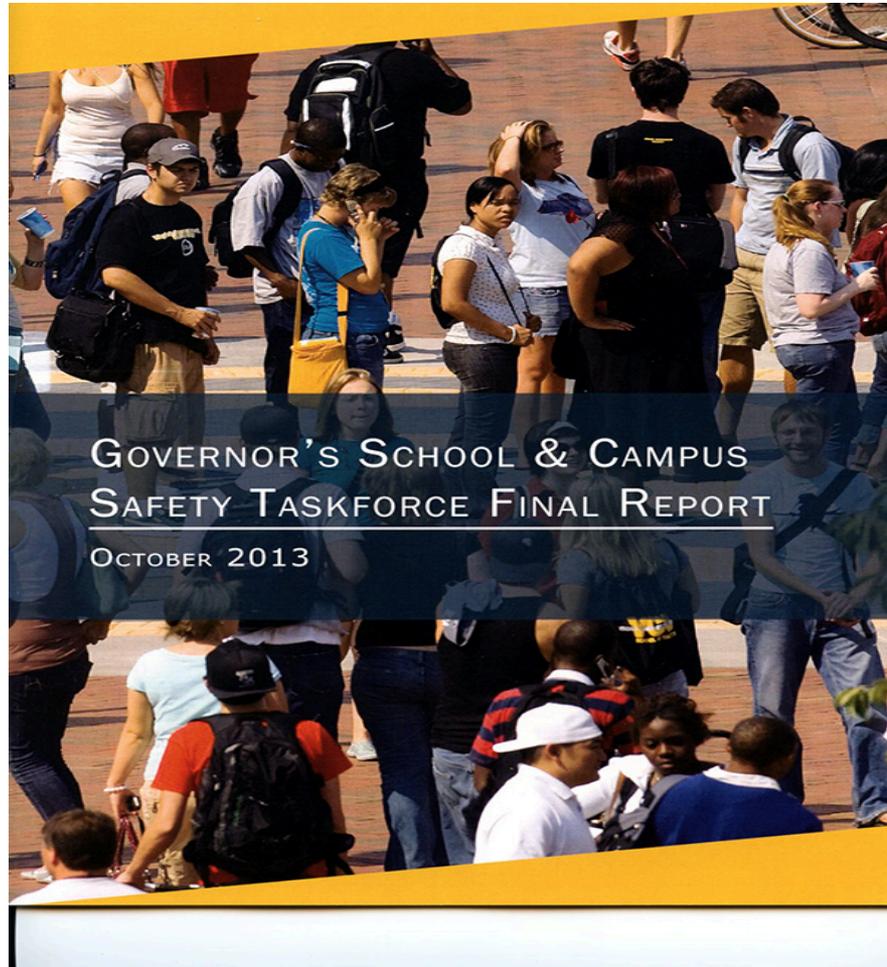
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How Did We Get Here?

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



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How Did We Get Here?

Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force

- Convened in the aftermath of Sandy Hook
- Made 61 recommendations
- Concluded its work on September 30, 2013
- 2013 General Assembly enacted many legislative 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.
- Emphasis on “posing” a threat versus “making a threat”
- Behavior driven





Threat Assessment

VIRGINIA CARES FOR SCHOOLS & CAMPUSES

CARES involves communities working together to build:

Caring & Connection

Awareness

Recognition

Engagement

Support

Toward the safety and well-being of our communities



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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 school staff or students
 - 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.





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.





SRO Role in Virginia K₁₂ Threat Assessment Teams



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Legislation

- Each team shall include persons with expertise in:
 - Counseling
 - Instruction
 - School administration
 - **Law enforcement**
- Law enforcement role is critical to the operation of the team.



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



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Threat Assessment

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



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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%).



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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

2016-17

- Just over one-third of schools reported that no threat assessments were conducted: 671 schools (34%)
- Schools reporting that no threat assessments were conducted, by school type:
 - 38% of elementary schools,
 - 22% of middle schools,
 - 19% of high schools, and
 - 58% of other schools.



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Threat Assessment

2016-17 Data

- 928 threat assessments classified at the highest threat level at some point in the threat assessment process (imminent/high risk, very serious substantive).
- In most of these (96%) the threat was ultimately averted (the threat did not occur).
- Of the 40 high level threat cases where an event occurred, nearly half (18) involved suicide attempts by students.



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Threat Assessment

- Among the highest level threats that were assessed, the rate among elementary schools was lowest (1.77 HLTs assessments per school) and the rates among middle, high and other schools were higher, and were the same among the three types of schools (2.90 per school).



Threat Assessment

- In summary, of the reported 9,238 threat assessment cases conducted in 2016-2017, 928 (10%) were classified as a highest level threat (HLT) by 380 schools, and among those HLT cases, 40 (<1%) resulted in an act being carried out at 27 schools.*





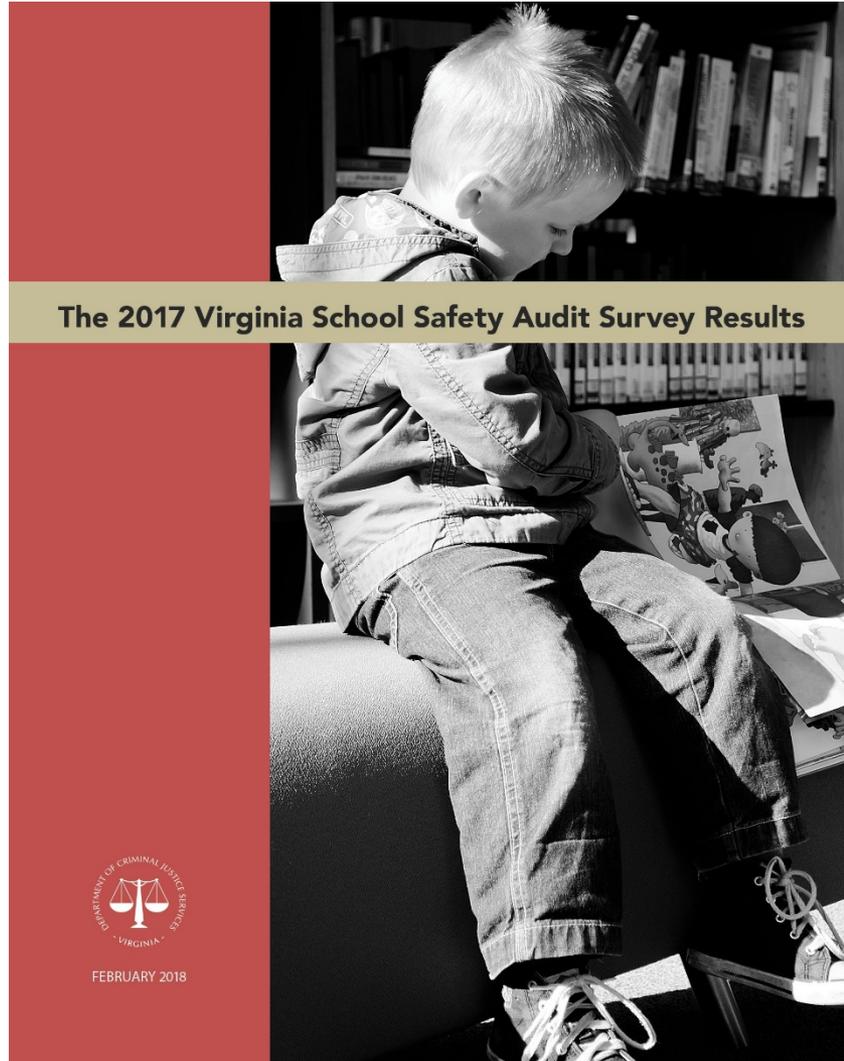
Data Collection



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Virginia Data



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Data Collection

- 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
- Threat assessment teams shall report quantitate data on their activities
Va. Code § 22.1-79.4(E)



Data Collection

Safety Audit

“a **written assessment** of the safety conditions in each public school to

(i) **identify and if necessary, develop solutions** for **physical safety concerns**, including building security issues and

(ii) **identify and evaluate any patterns of student safety concerns** occurring on school property or at school sponsored events.

Solutions and responses shall include recommendations for structural adjustments, changes in school safety procedures, and revisions to the school board’s standards for student conduct.”



Data Collection

Safety Audit

- Collect, analyze, and disseminate various Virginia school safety data, including school safety audit information submitted to it pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-279.8
- Develop a list of items to be reviewed and evaluated in the school safety audits required by this section. Such items shall include those **incidents reported to school authorities** pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-279.3:1



Data Collection

1. **Virginia School Safety Survey**
(completed online annually)
2. **Division Level Survey** (every 3 years)
3. **Virginia School Crisis Management Plan Review and Certification** (annually by August 31)
4. **Virginia Secondary School Climate Survey** (administered in the Spring alternating middle and high schools)
5. **School Safety Inspection Checklist** (every 3 years)



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Data Collection

Safety Audit – Climate Survey

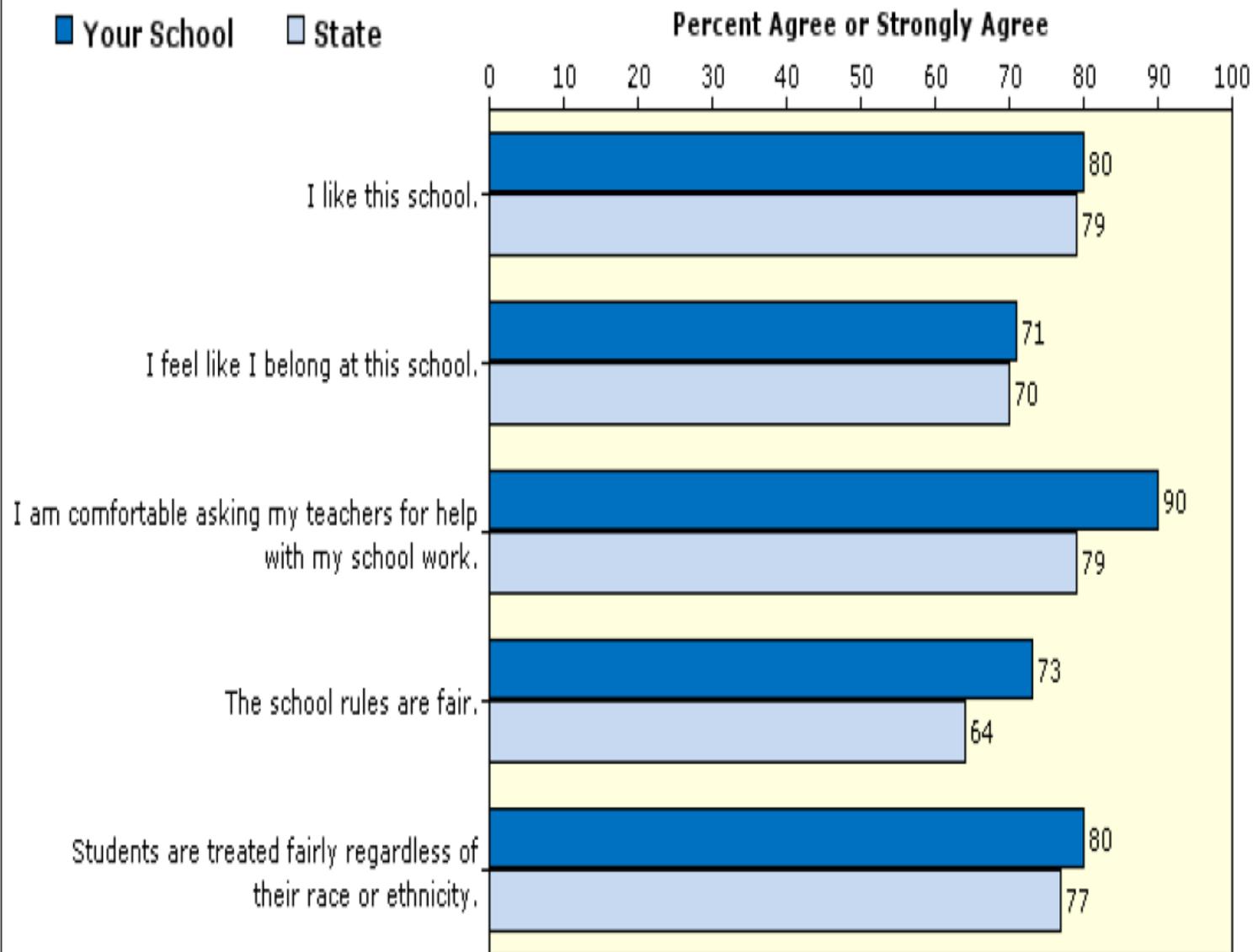
What is the purpose of the survey?

- to provide schools with information on school climate and safety conditions in order to maintain a safe and orderly school environment conducive to learning
- measures student and teacher/staff perceptions of school rules and discipline, teacher-student relationships, student engagement in school, and the extent of bullying and teasing at school





Student Perceptions of School Climate

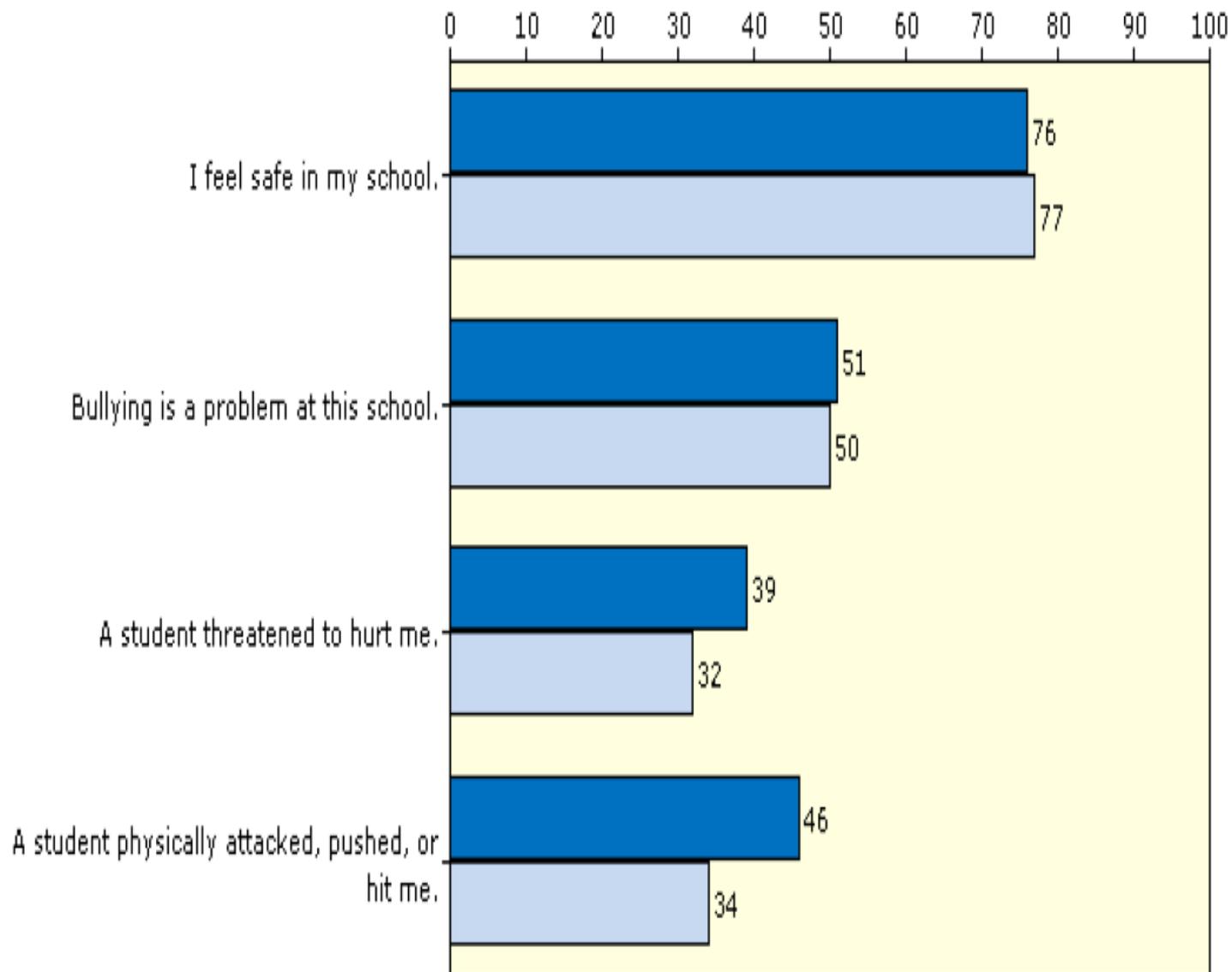




Student Perceptions of Safety

■ Your School □ State

Percent Agree or Strongly Agree





Climate Survey Summary

A Virginia High School

Student Support Scale	School	Region	State
Most teachers and other adults at this school...			
Care about all students.	65%	63%	74%
Want all students to do well.	79%	81%	86%
Listen to what students have to say.	50%	50%	61%
Treat students with respect.	60%	63%	74%
How much do you agree or disagree with these statements?			
There are adults at this school I could talk with if I had a personal problem.	 77%	73%	76%
If I tell a teacher that someone is bullying me, the teacher will do something to help.	76%	75%	84%
I am comfortable asking my teachers for help with my school work.	80%	83%	86%
There is at least one teacher or other adult at this school who really wants me to do well.	 95%	94%	95%
Average for 8 items above	2.8	2.8	3
Additional items not included in overall scale, but relevant to safety.			
If another student talked about killing someone, I would tell one of the teachers or staff at school.	 77%	76%	81%
If another student brought a gun to school, I would tell one of the teachers or staff at school.	 80%	80%	88%
I feel safe in my school.	 72%	67%	82%





Trainings and Conferences



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Trainings and Conferences

School Safety

Campus Safety

Public Safety

Mixed Audience



Trainings and Conferences

Annually:

- 6-9 conferences
- 150- 200 training events
- 6,500- 8,500 constituents



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Trainings and Conferences

Six annual conferences for primary constituents:

1. Campus Safety and Violence Prevention Forum (March 2018)
2. The Briefings (April 2018)
3. Violent Crime Conference (June 2018)
4. School and Campus Safety Training Forum (August 2018)
5. School Safety Symposium (August 2018)
6. Strengthening Connections (November 2018)

Special topic conferences as needed

- Civil Disturbance Planning
- Trauma on Law Enforcement



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
- Gang Awareness for School Personnel
- Title IX Investigations and the Role of the Office for Civil Rights



Trainings and Conferences

School Safety

- Next Steps in Crisis Management Planning
- Critical Incident Response
- Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events
- Social Media for Educators
- Title IX Investigations and the Role of the Office for Civil Rights
- Drug Abuse Awareness and Prevention
- Trauma Informed Discipline Practices
- Restorative Justice Practices
- Impact of Implicit Biases



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Trainings and Conferences

Campus Safety

- Basic & Advanced Campus Threat Assessment
- Campus Crime Prevention
- Enhancing the Campus & Community Response to Adult Sexual Assault
- Trauma Informed Sexual Assault Investigations
- Investigation of Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Stalking for Campus Police



Trainings and Conferences

Campus Safety

- Title IX Investigations
- Managing Critical Incidents for Higher Education Institutions
- Mental Health First Aid for Higher Education
- Strategic Legal Guidelines for University Police Operations



Trainings and Conferences

Public Safety

- Financial Investigations in Heroin and Opioid Abuse
- Dynamics of Officer /Citizen Encounters
- Interview and Interrogation Skills
- Animal Cruelty and Fighting Investigations
- Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVEs)





Trainings and Conferences

Public Safety

- Law Enforcement First Responders Training Program
- Sovereign Citizens Movement Training
- Gang Awareness and Investigation Training
- Fair and Impartial Policing Training
- Human Trafficking Investigations
- Introduction to Domestic Extremism and Hate Groups



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Trainings and Conferences

Mixed Audience

- Adult, Youth, IHE, and Public Safety
Mental Health First Aid
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills
Training
- Social Media Awareness



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Resources



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Resources

Resource Development and Technical Assistance Tools

1. Publications
2. Videos
3. Guidance
4. Curriculum to support sustainability of trainings



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Resources

Topics focused on existing needs or new legislative mandates

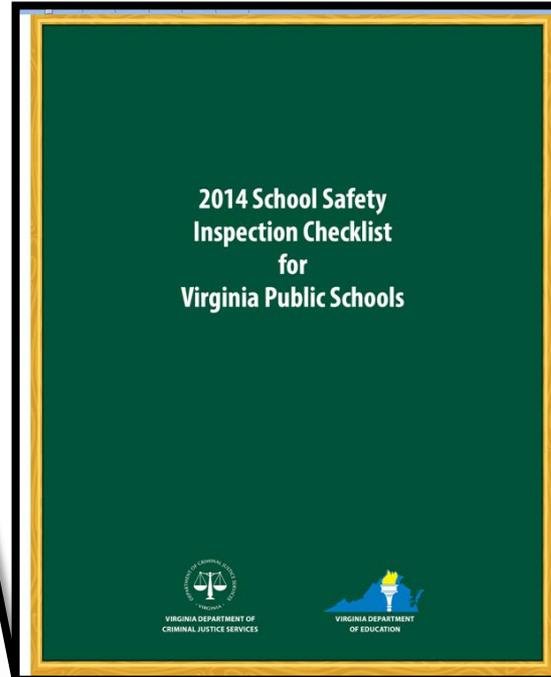
- Threat Assessment
- School Climate
- School safety audits and security checklists
- Conducting emergency drills
- Crisis planning and emergency response
- Legal issues (ex: search and seizure)



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Resources



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Mandated

Resources

- Critical Incident Response Video and Accompanying Manual
- *Guidance for Emergency Manager Designee*
- *Guidance for School Systems in the Event That Victims Arise from an Emergency*
- *Guidance on Required Drill*
- *Juvenile Law Handbook*
- *K12 Threat Assessment: A Prevention Overview Video and Accompanying Manual*
- *Model School Resource Officer (SRO) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Program Guide*
- *School – Law Enforcement Partnership Guide*
- *School Crisis, Emergency Management and Medical Emergency Response Plan and Quick Guide*
- *School Safety Audit Infographic*
- *School Safety Audit Template for Divisions*
- *School Safety Audit Template for Schools*
- School Safety Inspection Checklist
- Threat Assessment Model Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines
- *Technical Assistance for Threat Assessment and Management Teams*
- *Threat Assessment Video and Accompanying Manual*
- *Virginia’s Educator’s Guide to Conducting Drills*
- *Virginia School Bus Driver and Monitor Video and Manual*



Resources

Higher Education Resources for Threat Assessment

- Campus Threat Assessment Training Curriculum
- Handbook for Campus Threat Assessment and Management Teams
- Guidance for Technical Assistance for Threat Assessment and Management Teams for Virginia Schools and Institutions of Higher Education
- Technical Assistance for Threat Assessment and Management Teams for Virginia Schools and Institutions of Higher Education (request for services)



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Resources

Curriculums include:

- SRO Training Curriculum
- School/Campus Security Officer
- K12/IHE Threat Assessment
- Disability Awareness for LEOs
- Title IX Primer for IHE
- Trauma Informed Sexual Assault Investigations



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Partnerships



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Research

- NIJ Grant on School Climate (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
- Core Minimum Standards for Campus Police Departments



Partnerships

State Agencies

- Virginia Office of the Attorney General
- Virginia Department of Health
- Virginia Department of Behavioral Health
- Virginia Board for People with Disabilities
- Virginia ABC
- Virginia Department of State Police
- Commission on Youth

Federal Agencies

- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF)
- U.S. Attorney's Office
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- U.S. Department of Education
- Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS)
- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)



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Partnerships

State and Professional Associations

- Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police
- Virginia Sheriffs' Association
- Virginia Association of College Law Enforcement Administrators
- Virginia Educational Associations
- Koshka Foundation for Safe Schools
- Maryland Center for School Safety
- Other state centers



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VCSCS Staff

We are here to help!
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