

Welcome to the 2018 Virginia School Division Survey

This is a secure, web-based survey conducted by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS). Submission of this survey partially fulfills the Virginia School Safety Audit requirement. ([Code of Virginia §22.1-279.8](#)) . <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter14/section22.1-279.8/>

While answering the following survey questions, please base your responses on the conditions in your division during the 2017-2018 school year, unless otherwise instructed. You are required to provide a response to each survey question in order to complete the survey. Throughout the survey, there are questions that reference *Code of Virginia* requirements. Click on the citation to review the *Code* language before responding to the related survey question.

Should you have any questions or experience technical problems with the survey, contact the VCSCS: Shellie Evers at 804-678-8993 or shellie.evers@dcjs.virginia.gov, James Christian at 804-357-0967 or james.christian@dcjs.virginia.gov, or Donna Michaelis at 804-371-6506 or donna.michaelis@dcjs.virginia.gov .

Questions contained in this survey may elicit responses that are exempt from public release pursuant to *Code of Virginia* Sections 2.2-3705.2 and 22.1-279.8. Each public body is responsible for exercising its discretion in determining whether such exemptions will be invoked. The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS) will report aggregate survey data for all schools and divisions and will not share individual division responses unless otherwise required by state law.

I. DIVISION IDENTIFICATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

1. What is the name of your school division? *(select from drop down list)*

If we have any questions about your survey responses, we would like to be able to contact you. Please provide us with your contact information:

2. What is your name? (First Name/Last Name)

3. Are you the division's current/acting superintendent?

Yes

No

(if 3= no)

3a. Please provide the name and email address for your current/acting superintendent.

(First Name/Last Name/Email)

3b. What is your title?

3c. What is your email address?

II. SAFETY-RELATED PERSONNEL AND PARTNERSHIPS

4. Among the schools in your school division during 2017-2018, what was the number of full time and of part time school-based mental health personnel (counselor, psychologist, social worker, substance abuse counselor) who

- were hired by the school division to serve specific schools or a combination of schools,
- work in the schools through a day treatment program, and/or
- work in the schools through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a community agency?

If there were none, enter 0.

	# hired by division	# day treatment program staff	# MOU with community agency
Full time			
Part time			

5. Is there a Director of School Safety or Director of School Security (or person of similar title whose responsibility is the oversight of school safety-related activities) employed within the school division?

- Yes
No

(if 5 = yes)

5a. Please provide the name and email for the person designated as the school division’s Director of School Safety/Security or similar designation.

(First Name/Last Name/Email)

§ 22.1-279.8. *paragraph D* requires that each school division designate an emergency manager.

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter14/section22.1-279.8/>

6. Was your division’s Emergency Manager hired to serve specifically in this role, or did they assume this responsibility in addition to their primary role? *(select one)*

- The Emergency Manger role is their primary role
 The Emergency Manager role is their secondary role
 Other (describe) ____

7. Please provide the name and email address for the person designated as the division’s Emergency Manager.

(First Name/Last Name/Email)

8. Is there a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in place in the division to facilitate the partnership between schools and law enforcement?

- Yes
No

(if 8 = yes)

8a. In 2016, the VCSCS produced a model MOU for school divisions and law enforcement agencies to use as a template for school-law enforcement partnerships. Did your division adapt a version of this model MOU or create your own? *(select one)*

Adapted the model MOU for our use

Created our own MOU

Other (describe) ____

(if 8 = yes)

8b. What was the month and year this MOU was last signed?

(Month/Year)

9. What type(s) of security personnel worked in your division during the 2017-2018 school year? *(select all that apply)*

School resource officer (SRO)

School security officer (SSO)

Neither

(if 9 = SRO)

9a. How were school resource officers (SROs) funded in your division? *(select one)*

By the school division

By a law enforcement agency (LEA)

Through grant funds from DCJS (SRO Grant Fund and Program)

Combination of division and LEA

Don't know

Other (describe) ____

(if 9 = SSO)

9b. How were school security officers (SSOs) supervised in your division? *(select one)*

By the Director of School Safety or other division leader

At the division level by a lead SSO

At the school level by the principal or other school level administrator

Other (describe) ____

§ 22.1-280.2:1 describes the purposes for which a local school board may employ a school security officer and the requirements if they are to carry a firearm.

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter14/section22.1-280.2:1/>

(if 9 = SSO)

9c. What is your division's current policy on allowing SSOs to be armed? *(select one)*

SSOs are allowed to be armed in division schools

SSOs are not allowed to be armed in division schools, and we are not considering changing this policy in the near future

We do not currently allow SSOs to be armed, but are considering allowing it

Other (describe)

10. Did your division apply for SRO grant funds last year?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

(if 10 = no)

10a. Why did your division not apply for SRO funds last year? *(select one)*

- All SRO positions currently funded through local funding and therefore were not eligible
- Not aware of grant opportunity
- Applied and denied funding
- Other *(describe)* ____

§ 22.1-279.3:1 *paragraph B* details the types of offenses that law enforcement are required to report to school/division authorities when committed by students, and *paragraph D* details the types of offenses that school/division authorities are required to report to law enforcement when committed by students.

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter14/section22.1-279.3:1/>

11. Were there formal written processes or protocols in place for your school division to *receive notification* on the Code listed offenses from local law enforcement?

- Yes
- No

12. Were there formal written processes or protocols in place for your division to *provide notification to* law enforcement on the Code listed offenses when committed by students?

- Yes
- No

III. EMERGENCY PLANNING, DRILLS, AND RESPONSE

§ 22.1-137.2 describes the requirement for conducting lockdown drills.

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter9/section22.1-137.2/>

13. Besides the four (4) required lockdown drills, do you have a division-wide requirement that schools conduct additional lockdown drills?

- Yes
- No

(if 13 = yes)

13a. Briefly describe your division's additional lockdown requirement. _____

§22.1-279.8 *paragraph C* requires that a division's school safety audit committee review the schools' safety audits and submit any plans for improving school safety to the division superintendent for submission to the local school board. <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter14/section22.1-279.8/>

14. Based on the review completed by your division's safety audit committee, did your school division submit any recommendations to your local school board for improvement regarding *physical safety concerns* of division schools in the 2017-2018 school year?

- Yes
- No

(if 14 = yes)

14a. Please list the top five recommendations made to the school board by the safety audit committee regarding physical safety concerns.

	Briefly describe recommendations
Recommendation 1	
Recommendation 2	
Recommendation 3	
Recommendation 4	
Recommendation 5	

IV. THREAT REPORTING AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 23.1-805 describes violence prevention committees and threat assessment teams, and requires committees to “provide guidance to students, faculty, and staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a physical threat to the community.”

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/23.1-805%20/>

15. What mechanisms are in place to provide education related to aberrant behavior for faculty/staff?
(select all that apply)

Training provided by individual schools

Training provided as part of a division-wide school safety in-service

Required online training video (such as, *K12 Threat Assessment in Virginia Schools*, an instructional video for school staff, parents, and community members provided by DCJS)

Other (describe) ____

None of the above

§ 22.1-79.4 describes the roles of threat assessment teams and oversight committees in school divisions.

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter7/section22.1-79.4/>

16. Is there a division oversight team for threat assessment?

Yes

No

16a. Please provide the name and email of the person in charge of the division oversight team.

(First Name/Last Name/Email)

17. Did your school division have a division-wide anonymous report method for students/parents/staff to report threats or concerning behavior?

Yes

No

(if 17 = yes)

17a. Please indicate which of the following report methods were available division-wide (at all of your division's schools). *(select all that apply)*

- Anonymous comment box/mailbox/form/written note
- Anonymous telephone hotline/text message
- Anonymous online application/website
- Anonymous email/tip-line
- Meet in person/face-to-face
- Other *(describe)* ____
- None

18. Does your division have a written policy or procedure for the maintenance of threat assessment case records?

- Yes
- No

19. Does your division have a written policy or procedure for notifying local law enforcement or other institutions when a threat is made by students or non-students at your school?

- Yes
- No

(if 19 = no)

19a. What are the obstacles to sharing information with law enforcement or other institutions? *(select all that apply)*

- Lack of knowledge of when to share information
- Lack of knowledge with whom to share information
- Concern about privacy laws
- Other *(describe)* ____

20. Which of the following does your division's student code of conduct or division policy include? *(select all that apply)*

- Threats to harm others are a disciplinary violation
- The disciplinary consequence for a threat to harm others will vary according to the seriousness of the threat
- Students who threaten to harm others are subject to a threat assessment process
- A student threat assessment can include referral for a mental health assessment
- None of the above

21. What kind of training or technical assistance would help improve your threat assessment (TA) process? *(select all that apply)*

- Additional training by DCJS
- Best practice training (with other divisions to share examples)
- Case studies, scenario trainings (social media, harm to self, harm to others)
- Level of threat training, when to conduct a TA (how to respond to various threat levels; when does a low-level threat require a TA)

- Online training in threat assessment
- Recognition of threats, threat types, and behavioral red flags
- Refresher training and review
- Regional training with other divisions
- Specific TA-related topics
- Suicide prevention, ideation, threat assessment for suicide threat
- Training for new staff
- Other (*describe*) ____
- None

22. What are the biggest challenges to setting up teams or conducting threat assessments? (*select all that apply*)

- Conducting reviews and updates
- Consistency in division-wide practices
- Length of the form
- Level of threat (when does an act become a threat, how to determine a threat's appropriate level, what constitutes a threat)
- Limited staff and staff turnover/retention
- Loss of instruction time, competing priorities, conducting thorough TA/review/debrief in a timely
- Privacy issues (FERPA, outside team members maintaining student confidentiality requirements)
- Team coordination (managing team member schedules, availability to meet in timely manner)
- Threat assessment training resources
- Training for new staff and for team members
- Understanding the function of threat assessments vs. discipline
- Other (*describe*) ____
- None

V. CONCERNS, TRAINING, AND RESOURCE NEEDS

23. What is the prime issue currently affecting the school division as it pertains to the *physical* safety and well-being of students and staff? (*select one*)

- Inability to secure classrooms
- Lack of designated security personnel
- Lack of fencing or other peripheral security
- Lack of supervision in one or more classrooms
- Multiple building/portable classrooms
- Physical dangers from unfunded repairs
- Unsupervised areas during the school day
- Unsupervised after school activities
- Other (*describe*) ____

24. What is the prime issue currently affecting the school division as it pertains to the *mental and emotional* safety and well-being of students and staff? (*select one*)

- Lack of in house counseling/mental health personnel available to assist students
- Lack of available climate improvement training in this area
- Lack of connection with other students

Lack of connection with teachers/staff
Unmet mental health needs/limited mental health resources in the community
Retaining qualified teachers
Other (*describe*) _____

25. How does your division monitor social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, etc.) to detect and mitigate potential threats and other safety issues? (*select one*)

Someone at the division level is responsible for monitoring (i.e., it is in their job description)
We have contracted a cyber security company to monitor social media for us (e.g., Gaggle, GeoListening, etc.)
We do not have a specific monitoring process
Other (*describe*) _____

Resources:

[2017 School Climate Survey Results](#)
[Critical Incident Response for School Faculty and Staff](#)
[Critical Incident Response Video](#)
[Guidance for Emergency Manager Designee](#)
[Guidance on Threat Assessment Team Formation and Reporting](#)
[K-12 Threat Assessment in Virginia: A Prevention Overview for School Staff, Parents and Community Members](#)
[K-12 Threat Assessment Video](#)
[Model Policy to Address Bullying in Virginia's Public Schools](#)
[School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical Emergency Response Plan](#)
[School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical Emergency Response Plan - Quick Guide](#)
[The Virginia Educator's Guide for Planning and Conducting School Emergency Drills](#)
[Threat Assessment in Virginia Public Schools: Model Policies, Procedures and Guidelines](#)
[Virginia School-Law Enforcement Partnership Guide](#)
[Virginia School-Law Enforcement Partnership Model Memorandum of Understanding](#)

Thank you for completing the 2018 Division Level Survey.