



Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Select Virginia Legislation with Safety Mandates for Institutions of Higher Education, July 2026

A vital role of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Division of Public Safety Training and the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (PST-VCSCS) is to stay abreast of past, current, and potential future legislation impacting school safety in the Commonwealth. It is important to note that this is not an exhaustive list of all legislation related to institutions of higher education in Virginia; it is a summary of key legal components referenced in DCJS/PST-VCSCS training and resources. All Virginia legislation can be found online at: <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/>. Additional information related to the Virginia Administrative Code may be found at: <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/>.

Campus Security Officers – Minimum Standards and Training	
Code of Virginia Section	Description
§ 9.1-102.46	The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) (and thereby the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety) is required to establish minimum standards for (i) employment, (ii) job-entry and in-service training curricula, and (iii) certification requirements for campus security officers. Such training standards shall include the role and responsibility of campus security officers, relevant state and federal laws, school and personal liability issues, security awareness in the campus environment, and disaster and emergency response. DCJS further provides technical support and assistance to campus police departments and campus security departments on the establishment and implementation of policies and procedures, including, but not limited to: the management of such departments, investigatory procedures, judicial referrals, the establishment and management of databases for campus safety and security information sharing, and development of uniform record keeping for disciplinary records and statistics, such as campus crime logs, judicial referrals, and Clery Act statistics.
Virginia Administrative Code Regulations	Description
6VAC20-270	Regulations Relating to Campus Security Officers; Compulsory minimum entry-level training and certification standards

Crisis and Emergency Management	
Code of Virginia Section	Description
§ 23.1-803	First warning notification and emergency broadcast system required
§ 23.1-804	Institutional crisis and emergency management plan

Crisis and Emergency Management	
<i>Code of Virginia</i> Section	Description
§ 23.1-808.2	Campus safety and emergency preparedness training; first-year completion and biennial review
§ 44-146.18	Department of Emergency Management; administration and operational control; coordinator and other personnel; powers and duties

Threat Assessment	
<i>Code of Virginia</i> Section	Description
§ 23.1-805	Violence prevention committee; threat assessment team. Each threat assessment team member shall complete a minimum of eight hours of initial training within 12 months of appointment to the threat assessment team and shall complete a minimum of two hours of threat assessment training each academic year thereafter. <i>Training shall be conducted by the Department of Criminal Justice Services or an independent entity approved by the Department and is required to include training on the use of substantial risk orders and emergency substantial risk orders.</i>

Sexual Assault	
<i>Code of Virginia</i> Section	Description
§ 23.1-806	Reporting of acts of sexual violence
§ 23.1-807	Sexual assault; memoranda of understanding; policies
§ 23.1-807.1	Baccalaureate public institutions of higher education; provision of physical evidence recovery kits
§ 23.1-808	Sexual violence; policy review; disciplinary immunity for certain individuals who make reports

Hazing	
<i>Code of Virginia</i> Section	Description
§ 23.1-820	Hazing prevention training; current members, new members, potential new members, and advisors
§ 23.1-821	Hazing; certain individuals who make reports; disciplinary immunity; investigation; information about on-campus mental and behavioral health support
§ 23.1-822	Institutional reports of hazing violations

Miscellaneous	
<i>Code of Virginia</i> Section	Description
§ 23.1-407	Reporting of enrollment information to Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry
§ 23.1-802	Student mental health; policies; website resource; training
§ 23.1-802.2	Resident assistant opioid antagonist administration training required
§ 23.1-808.1	Human trafficking awareness and prevention training; first-year orientation