



The 2024 Virginia School Safety Survey

DATA BY QUESTION

Background

The Virginia Division School Safety Survey is intended to provide school divisions and the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) with information on how best practices for school safety are being implemented across Virginia. The results of this survey provide valuable information on training and resource needs across the state. The survey is updated periodically to incorporate updates to best practices and to gather specific data needed to inform policymakers.

The web-based Virginia Division School Safety Survey was developed and administered by the DCJS Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS). In May 2024, all Virginia school division emergency managers received directions for the 2024 School and Division Safety Surveys.

Submission of the online survey is one component of the Virginia School Safety Audit requirement (*Code of Virginia § 22.1-279.8*).

Once all schools in a division completed their School Safety Survey, a School Response Summary was provided to that division, along with the link to complete their Division Safety Survey. Superintendents, or their designees, completed the web-based survey from May through September of 2024, providing information that reflected conditions in their divisions during the 2023–2024 school year.

If you have any questions, please contact the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS):

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1,946 schools, 131 divisions

| | | N= 1,946 | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| What is your primary role in the school? | | # of Schools | % of Schools |
| | Principal/Director | 1,258 | 65% |
| | Associate/Assistant Principal | 635 | 33% |
| | Dean of Students | 14 | <1% |
| | School Security Officer (SSO) | 11 | <1% |
| | Safety Coordinator/Chair/Specialist | 7 | <1% |
| | Site/Program Coordinator | 7 | <1% |
| | Senior Teacher | 5 | <1% |
| | Administrative Intern/Aide | 3 | <1% |
| | School Counselor | 3 | <1% |
| | Other | 3 | <1% |

| | | N= 1,946 | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|--------------|--------------|
| Is your school/program 100% virtual? | | # of Schools | % of Schools |
| | Yes | 5 | <1% |
| | No | 1,941 | 99% |

SECURITY PERSONNEL AND PARTNERSHIPS

N= 1,946

| Which of the following types of safety personnel did you have working in your building during the 2023-2024 school year? <i>(Select all that apply)</i> | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| School Resource Officers (SROs) – Sworn law enforcement | 1,285 | 66% |
| Certified School Security Officers (SSOs) - Division employees | 782 | 40% |
| None | 380 | 20% |

School Resource Officer (SRO)

N= 1,285

| How familiar are you (the principal or designee) with the operational expectations set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between your school division and the local law enforcement agency for the role of SROs in your school? | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Not at all familiar | 14 | 1% |
| Slightly familiar | 61 | 5% |
| Somewhat familiar | 160 | 12% |
| Moderately familiar | 579 | 45% |
| Extremely familiar | 471 | 37% |

N= 1,285

| How useful is the MOU in your daily collaboration with school resource officers? | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Not at all useful | 33 | 3% |
| Slightly useful | 80 | 6% |
| Somewhat useful | 228 | 18% |
| Moderately useful | 489 | 38% |
| Extremely useful | 455 | 35% |

N= 1,285

| Please rate each of the following areas related to your school/law enforcement partnership: | N= 1,285 | | | | |
|---|-------------|-----------|------------|---------|-----------|
| | Very Good | Good | Acceptable | Poor | Very Poor |
| Communication from administrators to SRO(s) | 1,000 (78%) | 242 (19%) | 39 (3%) | 2 (<1%) | 2 (<1%) |
| Communication from SRO(s) to administrators | 958 (75%) | 238 (19%) | 71 (6%) | 16 (1%) | 2 (<1%) |
| Distinction between school rules and laws (mutual understanding about which infractions the SRO should and should not handle) | 892 (69%) | 316 (25%) | 66 (5%) | 9 (<1%) | 2 (<1%) |
| Role distinction (mutual understanding of appropriate role and duties of SRO(s)) | 872 (68%) | 326 (25%) | 71 (6%) | 14 (1%) | 2 (<1%) |

N= 1,285

| SROs are required to complete basic training. What ongoing professional development topics do you think your SRO(s) would most benefit from? <i>(Select all that apply)</i> | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Role model/Mentoring topics | 697 | 54% |
| Law-related education topics | 555 | 43% |
| Emergency/Crisis response topics | 493 | 38% |
| Law enforcement topics | 71 | 6% |
| Other (describe) | 85 | 7% |

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Certified School Security Officer (SSO)

N= 1,285

| Have you, or another administrator from your building, attended a DCJS SRO and School Administrator Basic Course? | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Yes, I have attended. | 493 | 38% |
| Yes, another administrator has attended. | 71 | 6% |
| Someone from this building has attended. | 555 | 43% |
| No, no one from this building has attended an SRO and School Administrator Basic course. | 697 | 54% |

N= 1,285

| What are the benefits of having a school resource officer (SRO) in your building full- or part-time? <i>(Select all that apply)</i> | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Added sense of security | 1,230 | 96% |
| Building positive relationships with law enforcement officer(s) | 1,201 | 93% |
| Visibility/Presence as a crime deterrent | 1,133 | 88% |
| Access to community information that may impact the school day | 1,128 | 88% |
| Trained first responder during a crisis | 1,091 | 85% |
| Improved collaboration with law enforcement, emergency responders, parents, and the community | 1,073 | 84% |
| Having an officer specially trained to work with school-aged students | 822 | 64% |
| Conflict de-escalation and mediation | 795 | 62% |
| A dedicated person who understands school-related laws and regulations | 795 | 62% |
| Education of students | 735 | 57% |
| Traffic control | 688 | 54% |
| Police Athletic League contact | 93 | 7% |
| Other | 2 | <1% |

N= 782

| Who assigned the SSO to your building? | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Division Security Director | 323 | 41% |
| Building-level administrator (aka: principal) | 260 | 33% |
| Other division-level staff | 112 | 14% |
| Division Emergency Manager | 58 | 7% |
| Other | 29 | 4% |

N= 782

| SSOs are required to complete basic training. What ongoing professional development topics do you think your SSO(s) would benefit the most from? <i>(Select all that apply)</i> | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| De-escalation/conflict resolution | 566 | 72% |
| Working with students with disabilities | 446 | 57% |
| Security awareness in the school environment | 401 | 51% |
| Students' mental health needs | 388 | 50% |
| Disaster, crisis, and emergency response | 377 | 48% |
| Role model/mentoring topics | 356 | 46% |
| Mental health/ suicide awareness | 339 | 43% |
| School and personal liability issues | 260 | 33% |

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| | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Violence prevention training | 255 | 33% |
| Substance use disorders | 151 | 19% |
| Online/internet safety | 150 | 19% |
| Other | 6 | 1% |

N= 782

| What are the daily duties of your school security officer(s)? <i>(Select all that apply)</i> | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Patrolling school grounds | 732 | 94% |
| Monitoring student areas | 660 | 84% |
| Overseeing arrival and dismissal | 660 | 84% |
| Escorting students for discipline reasons | 622 | 80% |
| Camera system monitoring | 584 | 75% |
| Visitor monitoring and management | 565 | 72% |
| Assisting with enforcement of student code of conduct/safety policies | 560 | 72% |
| Bus lane coverage/traffic/parking assistance | 558 | 71% |
| De-escalation and conflict resolution | 548 | 70% |
| Mentorship and positive relationship-building | 542 | 69% |
| Assisting with lunch duty | 523 | 67% |
| Crisis plan management/Planning and conducting drills | 520 | 66% |
| Assisting with security screenings | 489 | 63% |
| Student searches | 427 | 55% |
| Security at after-school events | 391 | 50% |
| Positive behavior supports or recognition | 376 | 48% |
| Assisting with discipline interviews | 293 | 37% |
| Other | 9 | 1% |

EMERGENCY PLANNING, DRILLS, AND RESPONSE

N= 1,946

| What topics related to crisis planning and/or crisis management have you received training on, and which topics would you be interested in receiving training on? <i>(Select all that apply)</i> | Have previously had training on | | Would like training on | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|
| | # of Schools | % of Schools | # of Schools | % of Schools |
| Lockdown | 1,846 | 95% | 66 | 3% |
| Active threat | 1,814 | 93% | 199 | 10% |
| Evacuation | 1,753 | 90% | 93 | 5% |
| Fire | 1,736 | 89% | 50 | 3% |
| Crisis Management Plan development | 1,645 | 85% | 190 | 10% |
| Drill planning, implementation, and debriefing | 1,630 | 84% | 143 | 7% |
| Medical emergencies | 1,615 | 83% | 129 | 7% |
| Weather-related incidents | 1,463 | 75% | 133 | 7% |
| Bomb threat | 1,445 | 74% | 232 | 12% |
| Individual emergency/safety plans for individuals with disabilities | 1,370 | 70% | 274 | 14% |
| Off-site reunification | 1,319 | 68% | 399 | 21% |
| On-site reunification | 1,279 | 66% | 341 | 18% |

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| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| Shelter | 1,274 | 65% | 112 | 6% |
| Building/Facility recovery procedures | 1,167 | 60% | 314 | 16% |
| Pandemic | 1,153 | 59% | 88 | 5% |
| Drug-related overdoses | 1,025 | 53% | 387 | 20% |
| Bus and vehicle accidents | 1,005 | 52% | 331 | 17% |
| Death of a student or staff member | 1,003 | 52% | 460 | 24% |
| Suicide | 997 | 51% | 389 | 20% |
| Chemical spill/Gas leak (hazmat) | 918 | 47% | 299 | 15% |
| Mental health recovery procedures | 902 | 46% | 506 | 26% |
| Social media emergency response | 732 | 38% | 531 | 27% |
| Loss/Abduction of a student | 678 | 35% | 576 | 30% |
| Reverse evacuation | 663 | 34% | 443 | 23% |
| Utility system failure | 663 | 34% | 385 | 20% |
| Demonstration/Protest/Walkout | 523 | 27% | 476 | 24% |
| Acts of terrorism | 476 | 24% | 413 | 21% |
| None | 3 | <1% | 19 | 1% |

School Crisis/Emergency Management/Medical Response Plan

The *Code of Virginia § 22.1-279.8* states that “each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school crisis, emergency management, and medical response plan.”

N= 1,946

| Does your school’s crisis management plan contain written procedures for the following situations? <i>(Select all that apply)</i> | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Building/Facility recovery procedures | 1,506 | 77% |
| Death of a student or staff member | 1,076 | 55% |
| Suicide | 971 | 50% |
| Loss/Kidnapping of a student | 930 | 48% |
| Drug-related overdoses | 870 | 45% |
| Epidemic/Pandemic | 811 | 42% |
| Reverse evacuation | 811 | 42% |
| Mental health recovery procedures | 789 | 41% |

N= 1,946

| Did you activate any portion of your school’s crisis management plan during the 2023-2024 school year due to an actual critical event or emergency? | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Yes | 971 | 50% |
| No | 972 | 50% |

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Please select all events that occurred causing the activation of your school’s crisis management plan during the 2023-2024 school year. *(Select all that apply)*

N= 971

| Health-related incidents and emergencies: | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Other | 479 | 49% |
| Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction) | 144 | 15% |
| Death or serious injury of staff or student | 115 | 12% |
| Other health-related incidents on or near school property | 108 | 11% |
| Drug overdose (identify substance) | 44 | 5% |
| Exposure to hazardous materials on or near school property | 26 | 3% |
| Epidemic/pandemic | 1 | <1% |

| Man-made incidents and emergencies: | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Weapon on school property | 109 | 11% |
| Other man-made incidents on or near school property | 109 | 11% |
| Intruder/Trespasser/Unauthorized person(s) on school property | 91 | 9% |
| Bomb threat | 64 | 7% |
| Active threat | 62 | 6% |
| Loss, disappearance, or kidnapping of a student on school property | 57 | 6% |
| Demonstration/Protest on or near school property | 13 | 1% |

| Weather- or building/power-related incidents and emergencies: | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Other building-related damage or power outage-related emergency(ies) | 110 | 11% |
| Smoke or fire/Explosion | 89 | 9% |
| Thunderstorm/Lightning | 59 | 6% |
| Tornado/Hurricane | 34 | 4% |
| Other natural disasters or severe weather | 20 | 2% |
| Flood | 8 | 1% |
| Earthquake | - | <1% |
| Roof or building collapse | - | <1% |

| Other: | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Incident off campus that impacted your school | 184 | 19% |
| Bus/Vehicle crash | 165 | 17% |
| Unfounded incident/Faulty or false alarm | 162 | 17% |
| Other safety-related incidents that affected the school and are not listed above | 65 | 7% |

N= 1,946

| Did your school receive any safety-related communications determined to be a hoax, such as a bomb threat, swatting call, or other concerning information in 2023-2024? | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Yes | 190 | 10% |
| No | 1,742 | 90% |

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N= 318

| How were these reports communicated? <i>(Enter whole numbers only)</i> | # of Incidents | % of Incidents |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Phone | 100 | 31% |
| Social media | 93 | 29% |
| In-person report | 40 | 13% |
| Email | 38 | 12% |
| Graffiti (written on school property) | 21 | 7% |
| Third-party (i.e., community report) | 13 | 4% |
| Other | 9 | 3% |

N= 318

| What was the outcome of the event(s)? <i>(Enter whole numbers only)</i> | # of Incidents | % of Incidents |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Call to parents | 198 | 62% |
| First responder response | 121 | 38% |
| Evacuation | 49 | 15% |
| Lockdown | 42 | 13% |
| Shelter | 15 | 5% |
| Reverse evacuation | 8 | 3% |
| Other | 23 | 7% |

N= 1,946

| Does your school have Naloxone (Narcan) available for incidents of opioid use? | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Yes | 1,480 | 76% |
| No | 461 | 24% |

| How many individuals at your school are trained to administer Naloxone (Narcan) administration? | Individuals | # of Schools | Avg # of Individuals per School |
|---|-------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| | 11,802 | 1,480 | 7.97 |

N= 1,946

| Review the following security strategies list and select those in place at your school during the 2023-2024 school year. <i>(Select all that apply)</i> | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Visitors were required to sign in. | 1,925 | 99% |
| All exterior entrances to the school building or campus were locked during school hours. | 1,920 | 99% |
| Visitors were required to wear some form of an ID badge while on school grounds. | 1,818 | 93% |
| Staff received training on how to initiate a lockdown. | 1,805 | 93% |
| Staff were required to wear an ID badge while on school grounds. | 1,744 | 90% |
| Visitors were required to sign out. | 1,732 | 89% |
| Classroom windows, including door windows, could be covered to eliminate visibility into the classroom. | 1,703 | 88% |
| The school had crisis kits prepared, including medical and emergency plan-specific items. | 1,629 | 84% |
| All classrooms had designated safe spaces/hard corners, and students/staff were made aware of how they were to be used. | 1,614 | 83% |
| Classrooms could be locked from outside the classroom. | 1,559 | 80% |

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| | | |
|--|-------|-----|
| Classroom doors were kept locked throughout the school day. | 1,543 | 79% |
| The school had a checklist available to assist in obtaining pertinent information during a threatening call/communication (e.g., bomb threat). | 1,470 | 76% |
| Staff were required to take “go kits” with them wherever they took students. | 1,185 | 61% |
| Classrooms could be locked from inside the classroom. | 1,163 | 60% |
| Staff and students were trained in “run, hide, fight,” “avoid, deny, defend,” or some other recognized response program. | 1,127 | 58% |
| Staff were trained on how to barricade rooms that cannot be locked from inside. | 1,107 | 57% |
| Door lock safety magnets were utilized. | 579 | 30% |
| Students were required to wear an ID badge while on school grounds. | 162 | 8% |
| None of the above | - | 0% |

N= 1,946

| Does your school utilize any of the following security technologies? | Yes | | No | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | # of Schools | % of Schools | # of Schools | % of Schools |
| Bus cameras | 1,915 | 98% | 31 | 2% |
| Hand-held two-way radios | 1,908 | 98% | 38 | 2% |
| Surveillance cameras | 1,840 | 95% | 106 | 5% |
| Mass notification system | 1,813 | 93% | 133 | 7% |
| Electronic card access reader system | 1,596 | 82% | 350 | 18% |
| Visitor electronic ID checks | 1,565 | 80% | 381 | 20% |
| Panic buttons | 1,209 | 62% | 737 | 38% |
| Bus tracking systems for parent | 1,115 | 57% | 831 | 43% |
| Anonymous reporting app | 1,014 | 52% | 932 | 48% |
| Electronic app connecting to first responders | 653 | 34% | 1,293 | 66% |
| Security scanning equipment (metal/weapons detection) | 612 | 31% | 1,334 | 69% |
| Hurricane or ballistic security window film | 469 | 24% | 1,477 | 76% |
| Electronic hall passes | 366 | 19% | 1,580 | 81% |
| Vape detection system | 272 | 14% | 1,674 | 86% |
| Student RFID cards | 185 | 10% | 1,761 | 90% |

Drills

What is your primary method of notifying staff and students of a lockdown or other emergency notification? *(Select all that apply)*

N= 1,946

| | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| PA System | 1,732 | 89% |
| Two-way radio | 173 | 9% |
| Electronic alerts to cell phones or computers | 51 | 3% |
| Other (describe) | 4 | <1% |

N= 1,946

When drills were implemented, were they clearly identified as **drills**? (i.e., “This is a drill. We are now conducting a lockdown drill.”)

| | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|-----|--------------|--------------|
| Yes | 1,823 | 94% |
| No | 118 | 6% |

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N= 1,946

| Did your school provide accommodations for students/staff with disabilities during all drills (lockdown, evacuation, etc.)? | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Yes | 1,896 | 97% |
| No | 45 | 2% |

N= 1,896

| What types of accommodations were made? (Select all that apply) | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Prior knowledge of drill to allow for preparation | 1,706 | 90% |
| Dedicated staff/personal assistance provided by an assigned individual | 1,703 | 90% |
| Sensory supports (headphones, fidgets, etc.) | 1,407 | 74% |
| Specialized location or route | 936 | 49% |
| One-on-one training/preparation for students with disabilities/504 accommodations | 771 | 41% |
| Social stories/Social learning tools | 666 | 35% |
| Additional drills/trainings/lessons | 478 | 25% |
| Signs or cue cards to assist with communication | 424 | 22% |
| Specialized equipment (stair lifts, etc.) | 347 | 18% |

Training

N= 1,946

| Does your school participate in the “Handle With Care First Responders – School Trauma-Informed Communication System?” | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Yes | 723 | 37% |
| No, I am not aware of this program | 760 | 39% |
| No, not at this time | 461 | 24% |
| No, the division does but our school decided not to participate | 2 | <1% |

N= 1,946

| Do you feel your school is able to provide sufficient mental health support for students and staff? | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Yes | 1,309 | 67% |
| No | 637 | 33% |

N= 637

| Please select the issues that limit your school’s ability to provide sufficient mental health support to students and staff. (Select all that apply) | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Lack of personnel | 590 | 93% |
| Limited funding | 348 | 55% |
| Lack of accurate knowledge about mental health issues | 248 | 39% |
| Competing priorities | 241 | 38% |
| Lack of community support | 96 | 15% |
| Written or unwritten policies | 80 | 13% |
| Other | 24 | 4% |

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N= 1,946

Have any of your staff members been trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid?

| | | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|-----|--------------|--------------|
| | Yes | 748 | 38% |
| | No | 1,198 | 62% |

N= 1,946

Are any of your staff members Youth Mental Health First Aid trainers?

| | | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|-----|--------------|--------------|
| | Yes | 119 | 6% |
| | No | 629 | 32% |

N= 1,946

Did your school take any actions or measures or implement any programs to combat and prevent incidents of antisemitism, anti-religious bigotry, or ethnic violence?

| | | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|-----|--------------|--------------|
| | Yes | 491 | 25.2% |
| | No | 1,455 | 74.8% |

N= 1,946

Please select the most needed types of school safety training by your school's administration/faculty/staff. *(Select all that apply)*

| | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| De-escalation and mediation | 1,178 | 61% |
| Social/Emotional interventions and supports | 1,086 | 56% |
| Mental health awareness and recognition | 1,061 | 55% |
| Trauma-informed practices | 1,057 | 54% |
| Cyber safety/Social media (Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok, Twitter/X, YouTube, etc.) | 962 | 49% |
| Understanding poverty's effect on learning | 832 | 43% |
| Bullying prevention and intervention | 824 | 42% |
| Substance use and vaping | 553 | 28% |
| Threat assessment team training | 507 | 26% |
| Emergency management and crisis response | 440 | 23% |
| Peer relations (dating violence, conflict mediation, sexual harassment, etc.) | 439 | 23% |
| Suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention | 431 | 22% |
| Violence prevention training (including fighting, armed intruder, active shooter, and other school violence) | 382 | 20% |
| Role of safety and security personnel (SROs and/or SSOs) | 255 | 13% |
| Human trafficking | 189 | 10% |
| Other | 11 | 1% |
| None of the above | 42 | 2% |

THREAT REPORTING AND ASSESSMENT

Per the Code of Virginia [§ 22.1-79.4](#).

N= 661

| In an earlier question, you reported that you did not have an SRO assigned to your school (or that your school is 100% virtual). How did your threat assessment team satisfy the required law enforcement expertise on your threat assessment team? | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| SRO from a neighboring school | 473 | 72% |
| Law enforcement from some other source | 188 | 28% |

N= 1,946

| In 2023-2024, did your school utilize the Behavioral Threat Assessment Resource Toolkit for K-12 Virginia Schools to inform students and/or staff how to recognize and report threatening, aberrant, or concerning behavior? | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Yes | 806 | 41% |
| No | 1,140 | 59% |

N= 806

| How did your school utilize the Behavioral Threat Assessment Resource Toolkit for K-12 Virginia Schools? <i>(Select all that apply)</i> | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Shared resources with instructional staff (all licensed staff, including teachers, school counselors, etc.) | 756 | 94% |
| Shared resources with support staff (custodians, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, secretaries, etc.) | 276 | 34% |
| Utilized the staff video to provide awareness of the threat assessment process for instructional and support staff | 199 | 25% |
| Utilized school-level videos for students to make them aware of recognizing and reporting concerning, threatening, or aberrant behavior (elementary, middle, and high schools) | 129 | 16% |
| Utilized the parent video to provide awareness of the threat assessment process for parents and guardians | 55 | 7% |

N= 1,946

| In 2023-2024, did your school utilize the Behavioral Threat Assessment Resource Toolkit for K-12 Virginia Parents to inform parents about how to recognize and report threatening, aberrant, or concerning behavior? | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Yes | 166 | 9% |
| No | 1,780 | 91% |

N= 166

| How did your school utilize the Behavioral Threat Assessment Resource Toolkit for K-12 Virginia Parents? <i>(Select all that apply)</i> | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Posted the toolkit on the school website | 70 | 42% |
| Held an in-person event and shared the toolkit (Back-to-School Night, PTA/PTO meeting, Principal's Coffee, stand-alone threat assessment event, etc.) | 60 | 36% |
| Sent an email to all parents/guardians with the toolkit link | 46 | 28% |
| Provided a link to the toolkit in the student handbook | 34 | 20% |

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N= 1,946

| Is your threat assessment team, along with your school counselor or school psychologist as part of the team, involved with the assessment and action plans in threats of suicide/self-harm? | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Yes | 1,861 | 96% |
| No | 85 | 4% |

N=85

| Since your threat assessment team is not typically involved with threats of suicide/self-harm, who handles these threats? (Select all that apply) | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| School counselor | 76 | 89% |
| Administrators | 44 | 52% |
| School psychologist/social worker | 24 | 28% |
| School nurse | 15 | 18% |
| SRO | 13 | 15% |
| Other counseling services (i.e., life counselor, student support counselor, etc.) | 12 | 14% |
| Division representative (i.e., Students Support Specialist, etc.) | 7 | 8% |
| Outside entity (i.e., community service board, law enforcement, etc.) | 6 | 7% |
| Other | 2 | 2% |

N= 1,946

| To whom has your school provided suicide awareness training? (Select all that apply) | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Staff | 1,358 | 70% |
| Students | 391 | 20% |
| Parents/guardians | 166 | 9% |
| None of the above | 552 | 28% |

N= 1,946

| Does your school utilize a standard suicide prevention screening tool? | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Yes | 1,602 | 82% |
| No | 344 | 18% |

N= 1,946

| Where were the primary threat assessment records (such as <i>Threat Assessment and Response Reports</i>) stored during 2023-2024? (Select all that apply) | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| With the school administrator’s file/threat assessment team | 1,125 | 58% |
| Secure digital database | 583 | 30% |
| With counseling records | 490 | 25% |
| At the division office (central office) | 485 | 25% |
| File room/vault separate from student cumulative record | 426 | 22% |
| Not applicable (no cases in 2023–2024) | 55 | 3% |
| Health or nurse files | 37 | 2% |
| With law enforcement unit records (as allowed by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act) | 31 | 2% |
| Other | 5 | <1% |

The 2024 Virginia School Safety Survey – DATA BY QUESTION

N= 1,946

Select the training topics that DCJS could provide to help improve your threat assessment (TA) process. *(Select all that apply)*

| | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Refresher training | 784 | 40% |
| Case studies, scenario training (social media, harm to self, harm to others) | 727 | 37% |
| Conducting threat assessments for unique populations (i.e., students with disabilities, elementary-age students, ESL students, etc.) | 704 | 36% |
| Level of threat training, when to conduct a TA (how to respond to various threat levels, when a low-level threat requires a TA) | 693 | 36% |
| Digital threat assessment | 452 | 23% |
| Conducting a threat assessment involving threats of self-harm/suicide | 451 | 23% |
| Recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior | 345 | 18% |
| Threat assessment for non-students (i.e., adults, former students, etc.) | 330 | 17% |
| Case management and record keeping | 319 | 16% |
| Information sharing | 193 | 10% |
| Other | 22 | 1% |
| None | 222 | 11% |

N= 1,946

How does your school identify levels of threat?

| | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| High–Low | 1,049 | 54% |
| Substantive–Transient | 609 | 31% |
| Priority 1–5 | 278 | 14% |
| Other | 10 | 1% |

Threat Assessment Numbers

For the next series of questions, we want to know about the assessments conducted by your school's threat assessment team. Report the number of cases regardless of their risk classification.

How many threat assessments were conducted in 2023-2024 for the following tasks?

| | # of Cases | # of Schools | Avg # of Cases per School |
|--|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Threat assessments conducted PRIOR to any act of violence occurring to prevent a future act of violence | 24,353 | 1,504 | 16.19 |
| Threat assessments conducted as a DEBRIEF when an event occurred without precipitating information (no opportunity to conduct threat assessment before the event, ex., a fight breaks out in the cafeteria) | 3,831 | 582 | 6.58 |
| Total (sum of PRIOR and DEBRIEF) | 28,184 | 1,676 | 16.82 |

N= 28,184

Of ALL the threat assessment(s) conducted by your school in 2023-2024, how were the reports made?

| | # of Cases | % of Cases |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Reported by staff member | 15,844 | 56% |
| Reported by student | 9,910 | 35% |
| Reported by parent or guardian | 1,243 | 4% |
| Found through social media | 729 | 3% |
| Reported anonymously | 458 | 2% |

The 2024 Virginia School Safety Survey – DATA BY QUESTION

For the number of assessments conducted PRIOR to an act of violence, please enter the number of assessments conducted based on the individual (subject) that exhibited the aberrant/concerning behavior or made the threat (if none, enter 0)

N= 24,377

| | Intended target was OTHERS ONLY | Intended target was SELF ONLY | Intended target was BOTH SELF AND OTHERS | TOTAL | % of Cases |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------|------------|
| Current student exhibited the behavior or made the threat | 13,953 | 9,120 | 997 | 24,070 | 99% |
| Parent/guardian of a student exhibited the behavior or made the threat | 65 | 1 | 7 | 73 | <1% |
| Former student from your school exhibited the behavior or made the threat | 38 | 21 | 12 | 71 | <1% |
| Anonymous individuals exhibited the behavior or made the threat | 18 | 6 | 29 | 53 | <1% |
| Student from another school exhibited the behavior or made the threat | 40 | 5 | 6 | 51 | <1% |
| Current staff member exhibited the behavior or made the threat | 15 | 15 | - | 30 | <1% |
| Other individuals exhibited the behavior or made the threat (not a student, parent, or faculty member) | 12 | 10 | 1 | 23 | <1% |
| Former staff member exhibited the behavior or made the threat | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 | <1% |
| TOTAL | 14,144 | 9,180 | 1,053 | 24,377 | |
| % of Cases | 58% | 38% | 4% | | |

The following questions refer to the threats where the assessment occurred **PRIOR** to any act of violence and a **current student** was the one exhibiting the behavior or making the threat.

N= 24,050

| How many subjects of the assessment(s) (individuals exhibiting the behavior or making the threat) were of the following genders? | # of Cases | % of Cases |
|--|------------|------------|
| Male | 15,993 | 66% |
| Female | 7,859 | 33% |
| Non-binary | 198 | 1% |

N= 23,775

| How many assessments were originally classified (before any case management) at each level of concern (determination level), and how many resulted in an act of violence after the assessment was conducted (aka NOT averted)? | # of Cases | % of Cases | # of Cases NOT Averted | % of Cases NOT Averted |
|--|------------|------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Priority 1 (Critical/Imminent): Subject poses an imminent threat of serious violence or harm to self or others | 632 | 3% | 15 | <1% |
| Priority 2 (High): Subject poses, or is rapidly developing capability for, a threat of serious violence or harm to self or others | 1,548 | 7% | 34 | <1% |
| Priority 3 (Moderate): Subject does not pose a threat of serious violence or harm, though risk cannot be ruled out | 3,409 | 14% | 120 | 1% |
| Priority 4 (Low): Subject does not indicate a threat of violence or harm to self or others; would or may benefit from intervention or assistance | 10,365 | 44% | 135 | 1% |

The 2024 Virginia School Safety Survey – DATA BY QUESTION

| | | | | |
|--|-------|-----|-----|----|
| Priority 5 (Routine/No Known Concerns): Subject does not indicate a threat of violence or harm to self or others at this time (or at the time of the assessment) | 7,821 | 33% | 155 | 1% |
| TOTAL | | | 459 | 2% |

Priority 1 Cases

The following questions refer to **Priority 1** threats, where an act of violence took place after the assessment.

N= 15

How many act(s) were threatened in the following categories? *(Select all that apply)*

| | # of Cases | % of Cases |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|
| General harm | 7 | 47% |
| Aberrant or concerning behavior | 3 | 20% |
| Cutting/stabbing | 1 | 7% |
| Homicide | 1 | 7% |
| Overdose | 1 | 7% |
| Strangulation | 1 | 7% |
| Weapon(s) use | 1 | 7% |
| Bomb/Arson | - | 0% |

N= 15

What was the number of intended target(s) in the following categories?

| | # of Cases | % of Cases |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| Self (self-harm) | 13 | 87% |
| Staff member | 11 | 73% |
| Student (not the subject) | 10 | 67% |
| Whole school | 1 | 7% |
| Parent | - | 0% |
| Other | - | 0% |

N= 15

What was the number of steps taken in the following categories to try to prevent the act(s)? *(Select all that apply)*

| | # of Cases | % of Cases |
|---|------------|------------|
| Counseling (in school) | 15 | 100% |
| Mental health services recommendation | 15 | 100% |
| Parent contact | 15 | 100% |
| Discipline consequences given | 11 | 73% |
| Counseling (outside of school) | 9 | 60% |
| Alternative education placement or home-based instruction | 8 | 53% |
| De-escalation | 7 | 47% |
| Hospitalization | 6 | 40% |
| Residential treatment facility | 5 | 33% |
| Safety plan/Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) | 5 | 33% |
| Police (SRO) contact | 2 | 13% |
| Community Service Board contact | 1 | 7% |
| Nurse consultation | 1 | 7% |
| Monitor social media | - | 0% |
| Other | - | 0% |

The 2024 Virginia School Safety Survey – DATA BY QUESTION

N= 15

| What was the number of targets of acts of violence in the following categories where the act(s) occurred AFTER the assessment? | # of Cases | % of Cases |
|--|------------|------------|
| Staff member | 8 | 53% |
| Self (self-harm) | 4 | 27% |
| Student (not the subject) | 3 | 20% |
| Whole school | - | 0% |
| Parent | - | 0% |
| Other | - | 0% |

N= 15

| Where did the acts of violence occur? | # of Cases | % of Cases |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| On school grounds | 10 | 67% |
| Location not related to school | 4 | 27% |
| At a school-sponsored event | 1 | 7% |

Priority 2 Cases

The following questions refer to **Priority 2** threats in which an act of violence took place after the assessment.

N= 15

| How many acts of violence occurred in the following categories after the assessment? | # of Cases | % of Cases |
|--|------------|------------|
| Assault | 2 | 13% |
| Fight | 1 | 7% |
| Overdose | 1 | 7% |
| Strangulation/suffocation | 1 | 7% |
| Bomb/arson | - | 0% |
| Completed Suicide | - | 0% |
| Cutting/stabbing | - | 0% |
| Homicide | - | 0% |
| Weapons use | - | 0% |
| Other | 1 | 7% |

N= 34

| How many act(s) were threatened in the following categories? <i>(Select all that apply)</i> | # of Cases | % of Cases |
|---|------------|------------|
| General harm | 31 | 91% |
| Aberrant or concerning behavior | 20 | 59% |
| Weapon(s) use | 7 | 21% |
| Homicide | 6 | 18% |
| Cutting/stabbing | 5 | 15% |
| Bomb/arson | 1 | 3% |
| Overdose | - | 0% |
| Strangulation | - | 0% |
| Other | - | 0% |

The 2024 Virginia School Safety Survey – DATA BY QUESTION

N= 34

What was the number of intended target(s) in the following categories?

| | # of Cases | % of Cases |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| Student (not the subject) | 34 | 100% |
| Self (self-harm) | 30 | 88% |
| Staff member | 8 | 24% |
| Whole school | 5 | 15% |
| Parent | 1 | 3% |
| Other | - | 0% |

N= 34

What was the number of steps taken in the following categories to try to prevent the act(s)? *(Select all that apply)*

| | # of Cases | % of Cases |
|---|------------|------------|
| Discipline consequences given | 34 | 100% |
| Mental health services recommendation | 34 | 100% |
| Parent contact | 34 | 100% |
| Police (SRO) contact | 34 | 100% |
| De-escalation | 30 | 88% |
| Community Service Board contact | 29 | 85% |
| Counseling (in school) | 27 | 79% |
| Counseling (outside of school) | 20 | 59% |
| Safety plan/Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) | 11 | 32% |
| Monitor social media | 10 | 29% |
| Alternative education placement or home-based instruction | 9 | 26% |
| Hospitalization | 4 | 12% |
| Nurse consultation | 3 | 9% |
| Residential treatment facility | 2 | 6% |
| Other | - | 0% |

N= 34

How many acts of violence occurred in the following categories after the assessment?

| | # of Cases | % of Cases |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| Fight | 11 | 32% |
| Assault | 6 | 18% |
| Bomb/arson | - | 0% |
| Completed suicide | - | 0% |
| Cutting/stabbing | - | 0% |
| Homicide | - | 0% |
| Overdose | - | 0% |
| Strangulation/suffocation | - | 0% |
| Weapons use | - | 0% |
| Other | - | 0% |

The 2024 Virginia School Safety Survey – DATA BY QUESTION

N= 34

| What was the number of targets of acts of violence in the following categories where the act(s) occurred AFTER the assessment? | # of Cases | % of Cases |
|--|------------|------------|
| Student (not the subject) | 7 | 21% |
| Staff member | 3 | 9% |
| Whole school | 3 | 9% |
| Self (self-harm) | 2 | 6% |
| Parent | - | 0% |
| Other | - | 0% |

N= 34

| Where did the acts of violence occur? | # of Cases | % of Cases |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| On school grounds | 29 | 85% |
| Location not related to school | 3 | 9% |
| At a school-sponsored event | 2 | 6% |

Priority 3–5

N= 21,595

| In how many cases were the following consequences/outcomes/interventions utilized to avert Priority 3–5 threats ? | # of Cases | % of Cases |
|--|------------|------------|
| Parent contact | 18,260 | 85% |
| Counseling (in school) | 11,071 | 51% |
| De-escalation | 8,173 | 38% |
| Police (SRO) contact | 7,615 | 35% |
| Discipline consequences given | 7,245 | 34% |
| Mental health services recommendation | 5,277 | 24% |
| Safety Plan/Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) | 2,657 | 12% |
| Counseling (out of school) | 2,592 | 12% |
| Community Service Board contact | 814 | 4% |
| Alternative education placement or home-based instruction | 713 | 3% |
| Monitor social media | 578 | 3% |
| Nurse consultation | 526 | 2% |
| Hospitalization | 485 | 2% |
| Residential treatment facility | 222 | 1% |
| Other | 368 | 2% |

SCHOOL SAFETY AUDIT

The *Code of Virginia* § 22.1-279.8 requires that all schools in Virginia complete an annual safety audit. The audit is 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.”

Safety Audit Review: The culmination of the School Safety Audit is a review of the data collected for each component.

Areas to review:

- Safety/Crisis management (data sources such as School Safety Survey, Crisis Management Plan after-action assessments, etc.)
- School climate (data sources such as the Virginia School Survey of Climate and Working Conditions, counseling needs assessments, etc.)
- Facility safety (data sources such as Safety Inspection Checklist or physical assessments of the buildings and grounds, etc.)
- Other data (data sources such as discipline, attendance, counseling needs assessments, community input, criminal analysis reports, etc.)

| Please select the issues and areas of concern or where your school could improve. (Select all that apply) | N= 1,946 | |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| | # of Schools | % of Schools |
| Absenteeism/Tardiness/Skipping | 1,301 | 67% |
| Disrespectful behavior | 937 | 48% |
| Parent involvement | 862 | 44% |
| Mental health | 607 | 31% |
| Behavior management/Student aggression | 573 | 29% |
| Student engagement | 573 | 29% |
| Camera coverage | 540 | 28% |
| Classroom disruptions | 500 | 26% |
| Social-emotional learning | 470 | 24% |
| Aggressive behaviors | 418 | 21% |
| Cell phones | 407 | 21% |
| Restrooms | 396 | 20% |
| Bullying/Cyberbullying | 374 | 19% |
| Bus referrals | 372 | 19% |
| Acceptable use policy (computers/internet) | 315 | 16% |
| Relationships | 308 | 16% |
| Door repairs or upgrades | 284 | 15% |
| Social media | 284 | 15% |
| Substance use | 273 | 14% |
| Traffic design | 262 | 13% |
| Fencing/gates | 258 | 13% |
| Cafeteria | 250 | 13% |
| Physical incidents/fighting | 250 | 13% |

The 2024 Virginia School Safety Survey – DATA BY QUESTION

| | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Perceptions of safety | 216 | 11% |
| Threat assessment | 215 | 11% |
| Training/Professional development | 186 | 10% |
| Suicide/Self-harm | 185 | 10% |
| In-school suspensions | 183 | 9% |
| Out-of-school suspensions | 169 | 9% |
| School connectedness | 157 | 8% |
| Non-compliance | 153 | 8% |
| Active attack training | 151 | 8% |
| Tolerance | 138 | 7% |
| Anonymous threat reporting system | 130 | 7% |
| Crisis plan development | 125 | 6% |
| High-risk area monitoring | 123 | 6% |
| Destruction of school property | 120 | 6% |
| Two-way communications | 120 | 6% |
| Incomplete building repairs | 119 | 6% |
| Work/Assignment completion | 114 | 6% |
| Window repairs or upgrades | 110 | 6% |
| Signage | 109 | 6% |
| Security of exterior entrances | 108 | 6% |
| Hallways/Walkways | 101 | 5% |
| Landscaping | 101 | 5% |
| Academic integrity | 99 | 5% |
| Drill procedures | 97 | 5% |
| Staff collegiality | 95 | 5% |
| Visitor management system | 95 | 5% |
| Key/Access control | 90 | 5% |
| Identification badges | 88 | 5% |
| Unclean building | 81 | 4% |
| Understanding of the SRO role | 80 | 4% |
| Poor or broken lighting | 76 | 4% |
| Drill accommodations for staff/students | 69 | 4% |
| SRO/Admin partnership | 64 | 3% |
| Security alarm | 61 | 3% |
| Supportive/Consistent leadership | 51 | 3% |
| Custodial closets and mechanical rooms | 42 | 2% |
| SRO training | 40 | 2% |
| Easy, prohibited roof access | 33 | 2% |
| Weapons | 25 | 1% |
| Security of records | 17 | 1% |
| Other (describe) | 17 | 1% |

The 2024 Virginia School Safety Survey – DATA BY QUESTION

| What resources are needed to resolve the issues identified? <i>(Select all that apply)</i> | N= 1,946 | |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| | # of Schools | % of Schools |
| Mental health resources | 877 | 45% |
| Additional counseling staff | 668 | 34% |
| Training/Professional development | 655 | 34% |
| Cameras/Camera system upgrades | 636 | 33% |
| Funding | 562 | 29% |
| Alternatives to suspension | 548 | 28% |
| Time | 434 | 22% |
| Community partnerships | 369 | 19% |
| Additional teaching staff | 353 | 18% |
| Student training | 335 | 17% |
| Building repairs/upgrades | 321 | 16% |
| Additional security personnel | 320 | 16% |
| Fencing/Gates | 263 | 14% |
| VTSS/PBIS | 242 | 12% |
| Replacement locks/Door repairs | 225 | 12% |
| Construction/Renovations | 185 | 10% |
| Clear guidance | 177 | 9% |
| Security system repairs or upgrades | 174 | 9% |
| Review of jobs, workload, and policies | 162 | 8% |
| Signage | 162 | 8% |
| Improved communications equipment | 154 | 8% |
| Window coverings | 130 | 7% |
| Re-keying of doors | 116 | 6% |
| Lighting | 102 | 5% |
| Visitor management equipment | 66 | 3% |
| Other | 17 | 1% |