



The 2025 Virginia School Safety Survey DATA BY QUESTION

Background

The Virginia 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 School Safety Survey was developed and administered by the DCJS Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS). In May 2025, all Virginia school division emergency managers received directions for the 2025 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 2025, providing information that reflected conditions in their divisions during the 2024–2025 school year.

If you have any questions, please email the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS) at safetyaudit@dcjs.virginia.gov.

1,952 schools, 131 divisions

What is your primary role in the school?	N= 1,952	
	# of Schools	% of Schools
Principal/Director	1,261	65%
Associate/Assistant Principal	637	33%
Dean of Students	19	1%
School Security Officer (SSO)	11	1%
Safety Coordinator/Chair/Specialist	6	<1%
Administrative Intern/Aide	4	<1%
Administrative Designee/Senior Teacher/Other staff	4	<1%
Student Activities Coordinator/Athletic Director	3	<1%
Other	3	<1%
Site/Program Coordinator	2	<1%
School Counselor	2	<1%

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Is your school/program 100% virtual?

N= 1,952

	# of Schools	% of Schools
No	1,939	99%
Yes	13	1%

SECURITY PERSONNEL AND PARTNERSHIPS

***100% virtual schools were not asked the following questions.**

Which of the following types of safety personnel did you have working in your building during the 2024–2025 school year? *(Select all that apply.)*

N= 1,939

	# of Schools	% of Schools
School Resource Officers (SROs) – sworn law enforcement	1,299	67%
Certified School Security Officers (SSOs) – division employees	854	44%
None	314	16%

School Resource Officer (SRO)

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?

N= 1,299

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Not at all familiar	12	1%
Slightly familiar	53	4%
Somewhat familiar	160	12%
Moderately familiar	589	45%
Extremely familiar	485	37%

How useful is the MOU to your daily collaboration with school resource officers?

N= 1,299

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Not at all useful	25	2%
Slightly useful	86	7%
Somewhat useful	201	15%
Moderately useful	537	41%
Extremely useful	450	35%

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N= 1,299

Please rate each of the following areas related to your school/law enforcement partnership:

	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor
Communication from administrators to SRO(s)	982 (76%)	269 (21%)	45 (3%)	2 (<1%)	1 (<1%)
Communication from SRO(s) to administrators	945 (73%)	256 (20%)	82 (6%)	13 (1%)	3 (<1%)
Distinction between school rules and laws (mutual understanding about which infractions the SRO should and should not handle)	923 (71%)	301 (23%)	61 (5%)	12 (1%)	2 (<1%)
Role distinction (mutual understanding of the appropriate role and duties of SRO(s))	897 (69%)	316 (24%)	70 (5%)	15 (1%)	1 (<1%)

SROs are required to complete basic training. What ongoing professional development topics do you think your SRO(s) would most benefit from? *(Select all that apply.)*

N= 1,299

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Students' mental health needs	559	43%
Working with students with disabilities	558	43%
De-escalation/Conflict resolution	434	33%
Mental health/Suicide awareness	391	30%
Threat assessment	377	29%
Role model/Mentoring topics	353	27%
Disaster, crisis, and emergency response	281	22%
Online/Internet safety	276	21%
Security awareness in the school environment	229	18%
School and personal liability issues	195	15%
Drug trends and identification	190	15%
Violence prevention training	107	8%
Substance use disorders	70	5%
Other (describe)	10	1%

Have you, or another administrator from your building, attended a DCJS SRO and School Administrator Basic Course?

N= 1,299

	# of Schools	% of Schools
No, no one from this building has attended an SRO and School Administrator Basic course.	678	52%
Yes, I have attended.	386	30%
Someone from this building has attended.	127	10%
Yes, another administrator has attended.	108	8%

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What are the benefits of having a full- or part-time school resource officer (SRO)?
(Select all that apply.)

N= 1,299

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Added sense of security	1,232	95%
Building positive relationships with law enforcement officers	1,186	91%
Access to community information that may impact the school day	1,134	87%
Trained first responder during a crisis	1,117	86%
Visibility/Presence as a crime deterrent	1,116	86%
Improved collaboration with law enforcement, emergency responders, parents, and the community	1,055	81%
Dedicated person who understands school-related laws and regulations	861	66%
Having an officer specially trained to work with school-aged students	855	66%
Conflict de-escalation and mediation	747	58%
Education of students	668	51%
Traffic control	665	51%
Truancy visits/Wellness checks	555	43%
Police Athletic League contact	101	8%
Other (describe)	6	<1%

Certified School Security Officer (SSO)

Who assigned the SSO to your building?

N= 854

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Division Security Director	392	46%
Building level administrator (i.e., Principal)	285	33%
Other division-level staff	147	17%
Division Emergency Manager	24	3%
Other	6	1%

SSOs are required to complete initial certification and recertification every two years thereafter. What ongoing professional development topics would your SSO(s) benefit the most from? (Select all that apply.)

N= 854

	# of Schools	% of Schools
De-escalation/Conflict resolution	598	70%
Working with students with disabilities	464	54%
Students' mental health needs	403	47%
Security awareness in the school environment	382	45%
Threat assessment	355	42%
Mental health/Suicide awareness	342	40%
Role model/Mentoring topics	339	40%
Disaster, crisis, and emergency response	336	39%
School and personal liability issues	220	26%
Drug trends and identification	175	20%
Online/Internet safety	146	17%
Violence prevention training	121	14%
Substance use disorders	83	10%
Other (describe)	1	<1%

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		N= 854	
What are the daily duties of your school security officer(s)? <i>(Select all that apply.)</i>		# of Schools	% of Schools
Patrolling school grounds		779	91%
Monitoring student areas		739	87%
Escort of students for discipline reasons		709	83%
Oversee arrival and dismissal		638	75%
Camera system monitoring		632	74%
De-escalation and conflict resolution		631	74%
Mentorship and positive relationship-building		622	73%
Bus lane coverage/Traffic/Parking assistance		621	73%
Assist with the enforcement of the student code of conduct/safety policies		611	72%
Visitor monitoring and management		611	72%
Assist with lunch duty		577	68%
Assist with security screenings		567	66%
Security at after-school events		500	59%
Crisis plan management/Planning and conducting drills		492	58%
Student searches due to reasonable suspicion of a school policy or student code of conduct violation		477	56%
Positive behavior supports or recognition		375	44%
Assist with discipline interviews		334	39%
Randomized searches of the school population (e.g., morning entry or at events)		327	38%
Threat Assessment Team member		323	38%
Other (describe)		6	1%

EMERGENCY PLANNING, DRILLS, AND RESPONSE

*100% virtual schools were not asked the following questions.

N= 1,939

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	1,816	94%	42	2%
Active threat	1,753	90%	186	10%
Fire	1,747	90%	25	1%
Evacuation	1,729	89%	66	3%
Crisis Management Plan development	1,619	83%	183	9%
Drill planning, implementation, and debriefing	1,609	83%	116	6%
Medical emergencies	1,609	83%	99	5%
Bomb threat	1,428	74%	208	11%
Weather-related incidents	1,382	71%	111	6%
Off-site reunification	1,353	70%	366	19%
On-site reunification	1,338	69%	292	15%
Safety plans for individuals with disabilities	1,280	66%	228	12%
Shelter	1,221	63%	9	0%
Building/Facility recovery procedures	1,163	60%	261	13%
Bus and vehicle accidents	1,081	56%	254	13%
Pandemic	1,072	55%	93	5%
Drug-related overdoses	974	50%	343	18%
Death of a student or staff member	972	50%	399	21%
Chemical spill/Gas leak (hazmat)	907	47%	269	14%
Standard Response Protocol (SRP)	903	47%	250	13%
Suicide	872	45%	343	18%
Standard Reunification Method (SRM)	813	42%	289	15%
Mental health recovery procedures	803	41%	486	25%
Social media emergency response	693	36%	459	24%
Reverse evacuation	678	35%	403	21%
Utility system failure	570	29%	363	19%
Demonstration/Protest/Walkout	541	28%	408	21%
Acts of terrorism	486	25%	377	19%
Abduction of a student	320	17%	605	31%
Other (describe)	21	1%	8	0%
None	23	1%	28	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.”

Does your school’s crisis management plan contain written procedures for the following situations? <i>(Select all that apply.)</i>	N= 1,939	
	# of Schools	% of Schools
Intruder/Trespasser/Unauthorized person(s) on school property	1,681	87%
Building/Facility recovery procedures	1,512	78%
Death of a student or staff member	1,070	55%
Suicide	996	51%
Drug-related overdoses	883	46%
Reverse evacuation	796	41%
Mental health recovery procedures	779	40%
Epidemic/Pandemic	775	40%
Abduction of a student	744	38%
Social media emergency response	647	33%
None of the above	–	–

Is your school using the updated DCJS Model Crisis Management Plan template?	N= 1,939	
	# of Schools	% of Schools
Yes	1007	52%
Not Sure	744	38%
No	188	10%

Did you activate any portion of your school’s crisis management plan during the 2024–2025 school year due to an actual critical event or emergency (not a drill)?	N= 1,939	
	# of Schools	% of Schools
No	1143	59%
Yes	796	41%

Please select all events that occurred, causing the activation of your school’s crisis management plan during the 2024–2025 school year. <i>(Select all that apply.)</i>	N= 796	
	# of Schools	% of Schools
Health-related incidents and emergencies:		
Other health-related incident on or near school property	364	46%
Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction)	154	19%
Death or serious injury of staff or student	121	15%
Drug overdose (identify substance)	35	4%
Exposure to hazardous materials on or near school property	30	4%
Epidemic/Pandemic	2	<1%

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Man-made incidents and emergencies:	# of Schools	% of Schools
"Runaway" student from school property	142	18%
Other man-made incident on or near school property	134	17%
Weapon on school property	100	13%
Intruder/Trespasser/Unauthorized person(s) on school property	89	11%
Active threat	69	9%
Bomb threat	56	7%
Demonstration/Protest on or near school property	10	1%
Abduction of a student on school property	5	1%
Weather or building/power-related incidents and emergencies:	# of Schools	% of Schools
Other building-related damage or power outage-related emergency(ies)	140	18%
Tornado/hurricane	111	14%
Smoke or fire/explosion	79	10%
Thunderstorm/lightning	66	8%
Other natural disasters or severe weather	34	4%
Flood	23	3%
Earthquake	7	1%
Roof or building collapse	3	0%
Other:	# of Schools	% of Schools
Incident off campus that impacted your school	202	25%
Bus/vehicle crash	175	22%
Unfounded incident/faulty or false alarm	158	20%
Other not fitting in any category above	33	4%

Schools that reported activating their Crisis Plans due to a drug overdose were asked to identify the substance used.

N= 35

*This follow-up question was a free response; participants were asked to write in the substance(s).

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Marijuana/THC	17	49%
Unknown substance	11	31%
Opioids	3	9%
Someone else's Prescription	2	6%
Over the counter	2	6%
Alcohol	1	3%
Other (Fabuloso)	1	3%

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 2024–2025?

N= 1,923

	# of Schools	% of Schools
No	1,742	91%
Yes	197	10%

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What type(s) of hoax did your school receive? *(Enter whole numbers only.)*

N= 286

*197 schools reported 286 incidents

	# of Incidents	% of Incidents
Bomb	87	30%
Weapon on campus	78	27%
General act of violence	66	23%
Fire alarm was pulled	45	16%
Large-scale fight	8	3%
Other	2	1%

How were these reports communicated? *(Enter whole numbers only.)*

N= 286

*Percentages will total more than 100% due to single incidents being reported multiple ways.

	# of Incidents	% of Incidents
Social media	132	46%
Phone	89	31%
In-person report	59	21%
Fire alarm was pulled	41	14%
Email	36	13%
Third-party (i.e., community report)	32	11%
Graffiti (written on school property)	21	7%
Other	6	2%

What was the outcome of the event(s)? *(Enter whole numbers only.)*

N= 286

*Percentages will total more than 100% due to single incidents having multiple outcomes.

	# of Incidents	% of Incidents
Unfounded/Resolved without incident	170	59%
Call to parents	157	55%
First responder response	82	29%
Evacuation	45	16%
Lockdown	30	10%
Hold	27	9%
Shelter	20	7%
School closure/Early release	17	6%
Reverse evacuation	3	1%
Other (describe)	3	1%

Does your school have Naloxone (Narcan) available for incidents of opioid use?

N= 1,939

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Yes	1,593	82%
No	346	18%

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N= 1,593

Did your school have to administer Naloxone (Narcan) for a suspected overdose?

	# of Schools	% of Schools
No	1,561	98%
Yes	32	2%

How many individuals were given Naloxone (Narcan) for a suspected overdose?

# of Individuals	# of Schools	Avg # Individuals per School
44	32	1.38

Review the following security strategies list and select those in place at your school during the 2024–2025 school year. *(Select all that apply.)*

N= 1,939

	# of Schools	% of Schools
All exterior entrances to the school building or campus were locked during school hours.	1,912	99%
Visitors were required to sign in.	1,910	99%
Staff received training on how to initiate a lockdown.	1,821	94%
Visitors were required to wear some form of ID badge while on school grounds.	1,811	93%
Staff were required to wear an ID badge while on school grounds.	1,765	91%
Visitors were required to sign out.	1,725	89%
Classroom windows, including door windows, could be covered to eliminate visibility into the classroom.	1,704	88%
School had crisis kits prepared, including medical and emergency plan-specific items.	1,664	86%
Staff received training on procedures for unauthorized persons on school property.	1,657	85%
All classrooms had designated safe spaces/hard corners, and students/staff were made aware of how to use them.	1,604	83%
Classroom doors were kept locked throughout the school day.	1,600	83%
Classrooms could be locked from outside the classroom.	1,551	80%
School had a checklist available to assist in obtaining pertinent information during a threatening call/communication (e.g., bomb threat).	1,369	71%
Classrooms could be locked from inside the classroom.	1,245	64%
Staff were required to take “go kits” with them wherever they took students.	1,182	61%
Staff and students were trained in “run, hide, fight,” “avoid, deny, defend,” or some other recognized response program.	1,122	58%
Staff were trained to barricade rooms that could not be locked from the inside.	1,075	55%
Door lock safety magnets were used.	477	25%
The school partnered with law enforcement agencies to use dogs to conduct searches.	364	19%
Students were required to wear an ID badge while on school grounds.	293	15%
Other (describe)	16	1%
None of the above	3	<1%

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Does your school use any of the following security technologies?

N= 1,939

*Participants were required to provide an answer for each item.

	Yes		No	
	# of Schools	% of Schools	# of Schools	% of Schools
Bus cameras	1,931	100%	8	<1%
Hand-held two-way radios	1,918	99%	21	1%
Surveillance cameras	1,866	96%	73	4%
Mass notification system	1,847	95%	92	5%
Electronic card access reader system	1,663	86%	276	14%
Visitor electronic ID checks	1,636	84%	303	16%
Panic buttons	1,227	63%	712	37%
Bus tracking systems for parents	1,217	63%	722	37%
Anonymous reporting app	1,133	58%	806	42%
Electronic app connecting to first responders	846	44%	1,093	56%
Security scanning equipment (metal/weapons detection)	757	39%	1,182	61%
Hurricane or ballistic security window film	597	31%	1,342	69%
School zone speed cameras	459	24%	1,480	76%
Electronic hall passes	455	23%	1,484	77%
Vape detection system	349	18%	1,590	82%
Student RFID-enabled ID cards	218	11%	1,721	89%

Drills

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

N= 1,939

	# of Schools	% of Schools
PA System	1,909	98%
Two-way radio	1,043	54%
Electronic alert to cell phones or computers	831	43%
Visual indicators (i.e. flashing lights)	342	18%
Other	18	1%

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

N= 1,939

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Yes	1,838	95%
No	101	5%

Did your school provide accommodations for students/staff with disabilities during all drills (lockdown, evacuation, etc.)?

N= 1,939

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Yes	1,892	98%
No	47	2%

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N= 1,892

What types of accommodations were made? *(Select all that apply.)*

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Prior knowledge of the drill to allow for preparation	1,742	92%
Dedicated staff/personal assistance provided by an assigned individual	1,688	89%
Sensory supports (headphones, fidgets, etc.)	1,473	78%
Specialized location or route	903	48%
One-on-one training/preparation for students with disabilities/504 accommodations	812	43%
Social stories/social learning tools	736	39%
Additional drills/trainings/lessons	527	28%
Signs or cue cards to assist with communication	499	26%
Specialized equipment (stair lifts, etc.)	391	21%

Training

Does your school participate in the “Handle with Care First Responders-School Trauma Informed Communication System?”

N= 1,952

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Yes	864	44%
No, I am not aware of this program.	635	33%
No, not at this time	443	23%
No, the division does, but our school decided not to participate.	10	1%

Do you feel your school is able to provide sufficient mental health support for students and staff?

N= 1,952

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Yes	1,418	73%
No	534	27%

Please select the issues that limit your school’s ability to provide sufficient mental health support to students and staff. *(Select all that apply.)*

N= 534

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Lack of personnel	479	90%
Limited funding	300	56%
Competing priorities	199	37%
Lack of accurate knowledge around mental health issues	180	34%
Lack of community support	62	12%
Written or unwritten policies	54	10%
Other	21	4%

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

N= 1,952

	# of Schools	% of Schools
No	1,049	54%
Yes	903	46%

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N= 903

Are any of your staff members Youth Mental Health First Aid trainers?		# of Schools	% of Schools
No		727	81%
Yes		176	19%

N= 1,952

Does your school have a protocol in place for reporting and responding to suspected human trafficking of students?		# of Schools	% of Schools
No		1,215	62.2%
Yes		737	37.8%

N= 1,952

Did your school take any actions or measures or implement programs to combat and prevent incidents of antisemitism, anti-religious bigotry, or ethnic violence?		# of Schools	% of Schools
No		1,205	61.7%
Yes		747	38.3%

N= 1,952

How does your school provide Internet safety instruction to students?		# of Schools	% of Schools
As a focused internet safety lesson		1,044	53%
Integrated into daily lessons		488	25%
We do not have a formal process		339	17%
Other		67	4%
Both focused and integrated lessons		14	1%

N= 1,952

What challenges does your school face in effectively integrating Internet safety into the school day? <i>(Select all that apply.)</i>		# of Schools	% of Schools
Balancing instructional time constraints		1,423	73%
Lack of teacher training on how to integrate internet safety effectively		630	32%
Evaluating the quality of the curriculum or products that teach internet safety and content standards		373	19%
Locating appropriate digital content aligned to VDOE standards		358	18%
Managing student and teacher subscription-based content in and out of school		308	16%
Teachers are reluctant to re-engineer lessons or units to incorporate internet safety		128	7%
Providing adequate Internet bandwidth for classroom usage		96	5%
No challenges		65	3%
Other		46	2%
N/A		27	1%
No Program		15	1%

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Was your division's cell phone policy clearly communicated to you and other staff?

N= 1,952

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Yes	1,931	99%
No	21	1%

How difficult was it to enforce the new cell phone policy?

N= 1,952

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Somewhat easy	613	31%
Extremely easy	558	29%
Not particularly difficult or easy	466	24%
somewhat difficult	259	13%
Extremely difficult	56	3%

What made enforcing the policy difficult? *(Select all that apply.)*

N= 315

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Lack of student cooperation	259	82%
Lack of parental support	215	68%
Lack of options for consequences	127	40%
Lack of teacher/staff enforcement	24	8%
Lack of administrative support	7	2%
Other	7	2%
Consistency in implementation	5	2%
Time	4	1%

What changes did you see in response to the new cell phone policy?
(Select all that apply.)

N= 1,952

	Increased		Decreased	
	# of Schools	% of Schools	# of Schools	% of Schools
Student engagement	779	40%	12	1%
Student attendance	95	5%	13	1%
Student behavior referrals (not including cell phone policy infractions)	87	4%	329	17%
Student conflict	–	0%	14	1%
Restroom use	2	<1%	2	<1%
No change observed			1,025	53%

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

N= 1,952

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Social/Emotional interventions and supports	1,069	55%
De-escalation and mediation	1,010	52%
Trauma-informed practices	876	45%
Mental health awareness and recognition	818	42%
Cyber safety/Social media (Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok, Twitter/X, YouTube, etc.)	762	39%
Understanding poverty's effect on learning	702	36%
Bullying prevention and intervention	690	35%
Crisis response (i.e., the five Standard Response Protocol actions)	539	28%
Threat Assessment Team training	426	22%
Emergency management and crisis response	391	20%
Peer relations (dating violence, conflict mediation, sexual harassment, etc.)	388	20%
Substance use and vaping	342	18%
Violence prevention training (including fighting, armed intruders, active shooters, and other school violence)	286	15%
Suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention	261	13%
Human trafficking	256	13%
Role of safety and security personnel (SROs and/or SSOs)	210	11%
None of the above	70	4%
Other (describe)	4	<1%

THREAT REPORTING AND ASSESSMENT

Per the *Code of Virginia § 22.1-79.4*.

In an earlier question, you reported you did not have an SRO assigned to your school (or your school is 100% virtual). How did your threat assessment team satisfy the required law enforcement expertise on your threat assessment team?

N= 650

	# of Schools	% of Schools
SRO from another school	387	60%
Division-level individual	163	25%
Have a local law enforcement agency send someone	89	14%
SSO	5	1%
Virtual School	3	<1%
Law enforcement from some other source (describe)	3	<1%

In 2024–2025, did your school use the Behavioral Threat Assessment Resource Toolkit for K-12 Virginia Schools to inform students and/or staff of how to recognize and report threatening, aberrant, or concerning behavior?

N= 1,952

	# of Schools	% of Schools
No	1,179	60%
Yes	773	40%

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N= 773

How did your school use the Behavioral Threat Assessment Resource Toolkit for K-12 Virginia Schools? *(Select all that apply.)*

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Shared resources with instructional staff (all licensed staff, including teachers, school counselors, etc.)	724	94%
Shared resources with support staff (custodians, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, secretaries, etc.)	236	31%
Used the staff video to provide awareness of the threat assessment process for instructional and support staff	205	27%
Used school-level videos for students to make them aware of recognizing and reporting concerning, threatening, or aberrant behavior (elementary, middle, and high schools)	124	16%
Used the parent video to provide awareness of the threat assessment process for parents and guardians	53	7%

N= 1,952

In 2024–2025, did your school use the Behavioral Threat Assessment Resource Toolkit for K-12 Virginia Parents to inform parents of how to recognize and report threatening, aberrant, or concerning behavior?

	# of Schools	% of Schools
No	1,774	91%
Yes	178	9%

N= 178

How did your school use the Behavioral Threat Assessment Resource Toolkit for K-12 Virginia Parents? *(Select all that apply.)*

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Posted the toolkit on the school website	80	45%
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.)	50	28%
Provided a link to the toolkit in the student handbook	48	27%
Sent an email to all parents/guardians with the toolkit link	46	26%

N= 1,952

Is your Threat Assessment Team, along with your school counselor or school psychologist, part of the team involved with the assessment and action plans for threats of suicide/self-harm?

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Yes	1,829	94%
No	123	6%

N= 123

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	114	93%
Administrators	78	63%
School psychologist/Social worker	66	54%
School nurse	42	34%
Other counseling services (i.e., life counselor, student support counselor, etc.)	20	16%
SRO	15	12%
Division representative (i.e., Student Support Specialist, etc.)	8	7%
Outside entity (i.e., community service board, law enforcement, etc.)	5	4%
Student's home-base school	3	2%
Other	1	1%

The 2025 Virginia School Safety Survey – DATA BY QUESTION

N= 1,952

To whom has your school provided suicide awareness training? (*Select all that apply.*)

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Staff	1,396	72%
None of the above	507	26%
Students	424	22%
Parents/guardians	185	9%

N= 1,952

Does your school use a standard suicide prevention screening tool?

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Yes	1,798	92%
No	154	8%

N= 1,952

Where were the primary threat assessment records (such as *Threat Assessment and Response Reports*) stored during 2023–2024? (*Select all that apply.*)

	# of Schools	% of Schools
With the school administrator's file/Threat Assessment Team	1,079	55%
Secure digital database	636	33%
With counseling or social worker records	540	28%
At the division office (central office)	455	23%
File room/Vault separate from student cumulative record	433	22%
Not applicable (no cases in 2024–2025)	46	2%
With law enforcement unit records (as allowed by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act)	41	2%
Health or nurse files	34	2%
Other	4	<1%

N= 1,952

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

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Case studies, scenario training (social media, harm to self, harm to others)	721	37%
Refresher training	707	36%
Conducting threat assessments for unique populations (i.e., students with disabilities, elementary-age students, ESL students, etc.)	646	33%
Level of threat training, when to conduct a TA (how to respond to various threat levels, when a low-level threat requires a TA)	599	31%
Digital threat assessment	402	21%
Conducting a threat assessment involving threats of self-harm/suicide	399	20%
Case management and record keeping	302	15%
None	263	13%
Threat assessment for non-students (i.e., adults, former students, etc.)	242	12%
Transferring cases from one school to another	238	12%
Recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior	225	12%
Form completion	200	10%
Information sharing	164	8%
Other	7	<1%

N= 1,952

How does your school identify levels of threat?

	# of Schools	% of Schools
High risk–Low risk	861	44%
Priority 1–5 (Critical/Imminent – Routine/No Known Concern)	592	30%
Substantive–Transient	492	25%
Other	7	<1%

The 2025 Virginia School Safety Survey – DATA BY QUESTION

N= 1,948

Does your school use the DCJS Threat Data Collection Form?

	# of Schools	% of Schools
No	1,229	63%
Yes	719	37%

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.

Approximately, how many threat assessments were conducted in 2024–2025 for the following tasks? *Please answer with a whole number for each type listed. If there were none, enter 0.*

	# of Cases	# of Schools	Avg # Cases per School	Median # of cases
Threat assessments conducted PRIOR to any act of violence occurring to prevent a future act of violence. <i>***Numbers entered here will transfer forward to other questions as numbers of threat assessments***</i>	25,157	1,947	12.92	5
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)	3,684	1,943	1.90	0
Total	28,841			

N=

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.*

	Intende d target was OTHERS ONLY	Intende d target was SELF ONLY	Intende d target was BOTH SELF AND OTHERS	TOTAL	
A current student exhibited the behavior or made the threat.	15,028	9,121	814	24,963	
A former student from your school exhibited the behavior or made the threat.	61	30	8	99	
A student from another school exhibited the behavior or made the threat.	28	3	3	34	
A current staff member exhibited the behavior or made the threat.	26	4	1	31	
A former staff member exhibited the behavior or made the threat.	–	2	1	3	
A parent/guardian of a student exhibited the behavior or made the threat.	35	–	1	36	
An anonymous individual exhibited the behavior or made the threat.	43	2	1	46	
Someone else, not a student, parent, or staff member, exhibited the behavior or made the threat.	7	1	2	10	
TOTAL	15,228	9,163	831	25,222	
% of Cases	60%	36%	3%		

The 2025 Virginia School Safety Survey – DATA BY QUESTION

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= 24,963

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	16,322	65%
Female	8,443	34%
Nonbinary	198	1%

N= 24,460

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.	787	3%	10	<1%
Priority 2 (High): Subject poses, or is rapidly developing capability for, a threat of serious violence or harm to self or others.	1,436	6%	8	<1%
Priority 3 (Moderate): Subject does not pose a threat of serious violence or harm, though risk cannot be ruled out.	3,411	14%	55	<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.	10,343	42%	103	<1%
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).	8,483	35%	120	<1%
TOTAL NOT AVERTED			296	1%

Priority 1 Cases

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

N= 10

The number of acts that were threatened. *(Select all that apply.)*

	# of Cases	% of Cases
General harm	5	50%
Cutting/Stabbing	4	40%
Aberrant or concerning behavior	1	10%
Weapon(s) use	1	10%
Bomb/Arson	–	0%
Homicide	–	0%
Strangulation	–	0%
Overdose	–	0%
Other	–	0%

The 2025 Virginia School Safety Survey – DATA BY QUESTION

N= 10

Number of who the intended target(s) was/were?

	# of Cases	% of Cases
Self (self-harm)	6	60%
Student (not the subject)	2	20%
Staff member	2	20%
Whole school	–	0%
Parent	–	0%
Other	–	0%

N= 10

Number of steps taken to try to prevent the act(s)? *(Select all that apply.)*

	# of Cases	% of Cases
Parent contact	8	80%
De-escalation	6	60%
Counseling (in school)	5	50%
Counseling (outside of school)	4	40%
Mental health services recommendation	4	40%
Community Service Board contact	3	30%
Discipline consequences given	3	30%
Police (SRO) contact	3	30%
Safety plan/Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP)	3	30%
Nurse consultation	2	20%
Alternative education placement or home-based instruction	1	10%
Hospitalization	1	10%
Monitor social media	1	10%
Residential treatment facility	–	0%
Other	–	0%

N= 10

Number of acts of violence that occurred after the assessment?

	# of Cases	% of Cases
Assault	3	30%
Cutting/Stabbing	3	30%
Fight	2	20%
Bomb/Arson	–	0%
Completed Suicide	–	0%
Homicide	–	0%
Overdose	–	0%
Strangulation/Suffocation	–	0%
Weapons use	–	0%
Other	–	0%

N= 10

Number of targets of the acts of violence that occurred AFTER the assessment?

	# of Cases	% of Cases
Self (self-harm)	4	40%
Student (not the subject)	2	20%
Staff member	–	0%
Whole school	–	0%
Parent	–	0%
Other	–	0%

The 2025 Virginia School Safety Survey – DATA BY QUESTION

N= 10

Where did the acts of violence occur?

	# of Cases	% of Cases
On school grounds	8	80%
Location not related to school	1	10%
At a school-sponsored event	–	0%

Priority 2 Cases

The following questions refer to Priority 2 threats where, after the assessment, an act of violence took place.

N= 8

The number of acts that were threatened. *(Select all that apply.)*

	# of Cases	% of Cases
General harm	5	63%
Aberrant or concerning behavior	3	38%
Weapon(s) use	2	25%
Homicide	1	13%
Bomb/Arson	–	0%
Cutting/Stabbing	–	0%
Overdose	–	0%
Strangulation	–	0%
Other	–	0%

N= 8

Number of who the intended target(s) was/were?

	# of Cases	% of Cases
Student (not the subject)	8	100%
Staff member	3	38%
Self (self-harm)	1	13%
Whole school	–	0%
Parent	–	0%
Other	–	0%

N= 8

Number of steps taken to try to prevent the act(s)? *(Select all that apply.)*

	# of Cases	% of Cases
De-escalation	8	100%
Parent contact	8	100%
Counseling (in school)	7	88%
Mental health services recommendation	6	75%
Police (SRO) contact	6	75%
Safety plan/Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP)	6	75%
Discipline consequences given	5	63%
Counseling (outside of school)	2	25%
Alternative education placement or home-based instruction	1	13%
Community Service Board contact	1	13%
Nurse consultation	1	13%
Other	1	13%
Hospitalization	–	0%
Monitor social media	–	0%
Residential treatment facility	–	0%

The 2025 Virginia School Safety Survey – DATA BY QUESTION

Number of acts of violence that occurred after the assessment?

N= 8

	# of Cases	% of Cases
Fight	4	50%
Assault	3	38%
Cutting/Stabbing	1	13%
Bomb/Arson	–	0%
Completed suicide	–	0%
Homicide	–	0%
Overdose	–	0%
Strangulation/Suffocation	–	0%
Weapons use	–	0%
Other	–	0%

Number of targets of the acts of violence that occurred AFTER the assessment?

N= 8

	# of Cases	% of Cases
Student (not the subject)	7	88%
Self (self-harm)	1	13%
Staff member	–	0%
Whole school	–	0%
Parent	–	0%
Other	–	0%

Where did the acts of violence occur?

N= 8

	# of Cases	% of Cases
On school grounds	7	88%
Location not related to school	1	13%
At a school-sponsored event	–	0%

Priority 3–5

In how many cases were the following consequences/outcomes/interventions used to avert **Priority 3–5 threats**? *If there were none for a particular category, please enter a "0".*

N= 22,237

	# of Cases	% of Cases
Parent contact	19,078	86%
Counseling (in school)	11,960	54%
Mental health services recommendation	9,676	44%
De-escalation	8,372	38%
Discipline consequences given	7,963	36%
Police (SRO) contact	7,809	35%
Counseling (out of school)	2,855	13%
Safety Plan/Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP)	2,667	12%
Community Service Board contact	816	4%
Alternative education placement or home-based instruction	696	3%
Nurse consultation	522	2%
Monitor social media	466	2%
Hospitalization	411	2%
Other	400	2%
Residential treatment facility	198	1%

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= 1,952

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Absenteeism/Tardiness/Skipping	1,243	64%
Parent involvement	797	41%
Disrespectful behavior	794	41%
Student engagement	557	29%
Classroom disruptions	509	26%
Mental health	499	26%
Behavior management/Student aggression	498	26%
Camera coverage	495	25%
Restrooms	402	21%
Social-Emotional Learning	379	19%
Aggressive behaviors	362	19%
Bus referrals	332	17%
Out-of-school suspensions	324	17%
Bullying/Cyberbullying	297	15%
Acceptable use policy (computers/internet)	282	14%
Doors need repair or upgrades	244	13%
Traffic design	243	12%
Destruction of school property	223	11%
Fencing/Gates	222	11%
Social media	218	11%
Relationships	208	11%
Threat assessment	201	10%
In-school suspensions	200	10%
Substance use	197	10%
Cafeteria	195	10%
Cell phones	193	10%
Physical incidents/Fighting	185	9%

The 2025 Virginia School Safety Survey – DATA BY QUESTION

Staff collegiality	185	9%
Perceptions of safety	172	9%
Building cleanliness	168	9%
Suicide/Self-harm	161	8%
Training/Professional development	140	7%
Non-compliance	132	7%
Active attack training	120	6%
Crisis plan development	120	6%
Incomplete building repairs	120	6%
Signage	117	6%
School connectedness	106	5%
Academic integrity	105	5%
Landscaping	105	5%
Two-way communications	105	5%
Windows need repair or upgrades	101	5%
High-risk area monitoring	90	5%
Key/Access control	89	5%
Work/Assignment completion	87	4%
Drill procedures	86	4%
Security of exterior entrances	83	4%
Anonymous threat reporting system	80	4%
Understanding of the SRO role	80	4%
Tolerance	78	4%
SRO/Admin partnership	71	4%
Drill accommodations for staff/students	67	3%
Visitor management system	66	3%
Identification badges	65	3%
Hallways/Walkways	57	3%
Poor or broken lighting	56	3%
Other (describe)	56	3%
Custodial closets and mechanical rooms	54	3%
Security alarms	54	3%
SRO training	41	2%
Supportive/Consistent leadership	33	2%
Easy, prohibited roof access	23	1%
Weapons	18	1%
Security of records	12	1%

N= 1,952

What resources are needed to resolve the issues identified? (*Select all that apply.*)

	# of Schools	% of Schools
Parent education and involvement	893	46%
Mental health resources	706	36%
Funding	544	28%
Training/Professional development	525	27%
Cameras/Camera system upgrades	523	27%
Additional counseling staff	499	26%
Alternatives to suspension	494	25%
Time	409	21%
Additional administrative staff	308	16%
Additional security personnel	299	15%
Building repairs/upgrades	294	15%

The 2025 Virginia School Safety Survey – DATA BY QUESTION

Additional teaching staff	292	15%
Community partnerships	287	15%
Student training	264	14%
Fencing/Gates	226	12%
Replacement locks/Door repairs	205	11%
VTSS/PBIS	178	9%
Construction/Renovations	177	9%
Clear guidance	170	9%
Security system repairs or upgrades	162	8%
Signage	162	8%
Review of jobs, workload, and policies	148	8%
Improved communications equipment	122	6%
Window coverings	117	6%
Re-keying of doors	115	6%
Landscaping	113	6%
Other (describe)	90	5%
Lighting	88	5%
Visitor management equipment	55	3%