

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)
Division of Public Safety Training
and
Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (PST-VCSCS)
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Memo No. VCSCS 26-004

To: Superintendents, Principals, Emergency Managers, Threat Managers, School Counselors, and Directors

From: Lindsay Burton, Division Director, PST-VCSCS

Date: January 27, 2026

Subject: **On-Demand Crisis Management and Mental Health Training Availability**

The *Code of Virginia* [§ 9.1-184](#) established the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS) in 2000. This legislation mandates VCSCS to serve as a resource for Virginia's public schools by providing training, conducting research, developing partnerships, facilitating the annual school safety audit, collecting and analyzing relevant data, disseminating information on effective school safety initiatives, and providing technical assistance.

In addition to a plethora of in-person courses, VCSCS offers hundreds of virtual and on-demand courses. Each of the on-demand courses below, along with many others, can be found in [Benchmark](#), our Learning Management System.

The purpose of this memo is to highlight available crisis management and mental health training in support of the *Code of Virginia* [§ 22.1-279.8](#), which requires school safety audits and school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans. Subsection E of this legislation (outlined below) requires completion of training conducted by VCSCS.

E. Each school board shall ensure that every public school it supervises employs at least one school administrator who has completed, either in-person or online, school safety training for public school personnel conducted by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety in accordance with subdivision A 1 of [§ 9.1-184](#). However, such requirement shall not apply if such required training is not available online.

Below are examples of available crisis management and mental health training from VCSCS:

1. [VCS - Before, During, and After - Crisis Management Planning Series](#)

The purpose of the School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical Emergency Response Plan (CMP) is to establish a framework for emergency preparedness and response by specifying actions to be taken by school officials during certain times:

- **Before** an emergency: to prevent, protect from, prepare for, and mitigate the impact on life or property;
- **During** an emergency: to respond to the emergency and minimize its impact on life or property; and
- **After** an emergency: to recover from its impact on life or property.

2. [VCS - Pathways for the Prevention of Violence Series](#)

- [VCS - Bullying Prevention and Intervention \(Pathways Series\)](#)
- [VCS - Emotional Awareness and Management \(Pathways Series\)](#)
- [VCS - Identifying and Supporting Students with Trauma Experiences \(Pathways Series\)](#)
- [VCS - Positive Behavior Supports \(Pathways Series\)](#)
- [VCS - Suicide Prevention and Intervention \(Pathways Series\)](#)
- [VCS - Supporting Individuals and School Communities Through Grief Experiences \(Pathways Series\)](#)
- [VCS - Responding to Threatening Behaviors \(Pathways Series\)](#)

The Pathways Series trainings are self-paced modules with knowledge checks to ensure understanding. The training topics can be completed individually; they do not need to be completed as a set.

Participants must have an account in Benchmark to access these training modules. To create an account, please refer to the [Benchmark Account Creation Instructions](#).

For a list of current in-person and webinar opportunities, please see [our training page](#). Schools and school divisions can find available in-person mental health trainings offered by request on our [Mental Health and Trauma Support page](#).

To receive notifications when training and resources are announced, subscribe to “DCJS Updates”: www.dcjs.virginia.gov/vadcjs_user/login.

We hope this information will help you have a safe and successful 2026. For additional information, please contact one of the following VCSCS team members:

Betsy Bell, *Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Programs Coordinator*
(804) 997-1658 or [Email Betsy](#)

Daniel Rose, *Crisis Management Program Coordinator*
(804) 338-4787 or [Email Daniel](#)

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