

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)
Division of Public Safety Training
and
Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (PST-VCSCS)
Richmond, VA
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Memo No. VCSCS 26-005

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

From: Lindsay Burton, Division Director, PST-VCSCS

Date: 2/17/2026

Subject: **Availability of Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Guidelines and Resources for HB 2055 and HB 2679 Compliance**

Virginia's 2025 General Assembly amended two important laws to strengthen school safety and student well-being:

House Bill 2055 – Imminent Risk of Suicide ([§ 22.1-272.1](#))

- **Requires** school personnel to notify a parent or guardian *when a student communicates that they are at imminent risk of suicide*.
- Must **provide** the parent/guardian with VDOE-developed, pre-approved **suicide prevention materials**, including information on **safe firearm storage** and **limiting lethal means access**.
- The VDOE, collaborating with VCSCS, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), has created the required **parent contact guidelines** and the **materials schools must distribute**.

House Bill 2679 – Threat Assessment Protocols ([§ 22.1-79.4](#))

- **Mandates** that school divisions establish **threat assessment teams** aligned with VCSCS model policies.
- Requires site-level **threat evaluation teams** with law enforcement, counseling, admin, and mental health staff.
- Upon initial findings of a student posing a threat to self or others, teams must **notify the student's parent/guardian AND provide VDOE-approved materials** on recognizing/responding to threat behavior. These must address **safe firearm storage** and other intervention strategies.

Action Steps (Effective July 1, 2025)

1. **Access** the newly approved [VDOE Guidelines for Selecting Parent Materials Related to Student Safety Concerns](#) under *Division and School Safety* in the Safety and Crisis Management hub. All of the approved caregiver materials can be located on the VDOE's Supporting Student Safety webpage: [Parent and Caregiver Resources for Suicide and](#)

[Violence Prevention webpage](#)

2. **Register** for the [Selecting Caregiver Materials Related to Student Safety Concerns Webinar](#) on March 4, 2026, from 2:30-3:15 p.m. (a recording will be sent to all those who register).
3. **Determine if your division will use the board-approved materials or adopt your own in alignment with the guidelines.**
4. **Update division policies on parental notification and share** the materials with all licensed personnel, counselors, and School Resource Officers (SROs), ensuring your policies and training align with both bills.
5. **Coordinate** with your local law enforcement contacts to support **threat assessment protocol implementation** and confirm they are aware of the new **parent notification requirements** and materials.

Evaluation and Compliance

Ensure that your division has:

- Adopted updated **suicide-threat notification** processes and disseminated HB 2055 materials.
- Established **multi-disciplinary threat assessment teams**, integrated law enforcement participation, and set up **refresher training every three years**.

For questions or assistance accessing materials, contact Sarah Bazemore, Coordinator of Behavioral Health & Instructional Supports, VDOE Office of Behavioral Health and Student Safety at Sarah.Bazemore@doe.virginia.gov or **(804) 750-8183**.

Thank you for swiftly integrating these updates to enhance safety, mental-health awareness, and student support across all Virginia schools.

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

The following VCSCS team members are also available to provide support for the implementation of these resources:

Robin Tuck, *K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment Program Coordinator*
(804) 987-5103 or [Email Robin](#)

Shellie Evers, *Technical Assistance and Support Supervisor*
(804) 629-7042 or [Email Shellie](#)