

**Select Virginia Legislation
with Implications for K-12 School Safety (As of 1/13/2020)**

Disclaimer: *This is not an exhaustive list of all legislation related to school safety.
It is intended as a summary of key legal components referenced in DCJS/VCSCS trainings.
It is incumbent on Virginia public schools and school divisions to ensure compliance with all pertinent legal requirements.*

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<p>1</p> <p><i>Code of Virginia</i> <u>§ 9.1-184</u></p>	<p>Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety</p> <p>Created in 2000, the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS), located within the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), focuses on improving and enhancing safety by addressing topics, which affect Virginia law enforcement, schools, and institutions of higher education. The VCSCS is a resource and training center for information and research about national and statewide safety efforts and initiatives in K-12 schools and institutions of higher education. Through <i>Virginia Code</i> <u>§ 9.1-184</u>, the VCSCS is mandated to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provide <u>training</u> for stakeholders,● Develop, review, and disseminate <u>resources and legislation</u>,● Facilitate the <u>annual school safety audit</u>,● Provide technical assistance, and● Develop partnerships to promote school safety and campus in Virginia. <p>The VCSCS strives to achieve all of these mandates and to be a one-stop service center to K-12 schools, institutions of higher learning, and law enforcement agencies.</p>
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	<p>Also of note, the name of the Center changed from the original Virginia Center for School Safety to the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety in 2013.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p><i>Code of Virginia</i></p> <p>§ 22.1-279.8</p> <p>§ 2.2-3705.2.</p> <p>§ 22.1-279.3:1</p>	<p>Annual School Safety Audit Program (2005)</p> <p>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.”</p> <p>Pursuant to VA Code § 2.2-3705.2. (7), schools may exclude security plans and specific vulnerability assessments from disclosure to the public. At the division level, the superintendent shall establish a school safety audit committee to include, if available, representatives of parents, teachers, local law-enforcement, emergency services agencies, local community services boards, and judicial and public safety personnel. The school safety audit committee shall review the completed school safety audits and submit any plans, as needed, for improving school safety to the division superintendent for submission to the local school board. To assist in this process, the Center for School and Campus Safety developed a template for the audit committee, once completed, the committee should forward its’ recommendations to the Superintendent/and or school board.</p> <p>Excerpts from Code:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Walk-thru Checklist Requirement (2013):</i> the Virginia Center for School Safety, <i>in consultation with the Department of Education</i>, shall develop a list of items to be reviewed and evaluated in the school safety audits required by this section. Such items shall include those incidents reported to school authorities pursuant to § 22.1-279.3:1 ● <i>and shall include a school inspection walk-through using a standardized checklist provided by the Virginia Center for School Safety, which shall incorporate crime prevention through environmental design principles.</i> ● <i>Making results public, limiting release, and sharing with law enforcement (2013):</i> the results of such school safety audits shall be made public within 90 days of completion. The local school board shall retain authority to withhold or limit the release of any security plans, <i>walk-through checklists</i>, and specific vulnerability assessment components as provided in subdivision 7 of § 2.2-3705.2. <i>The completed walk-through checklist shall be made available upon request to the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality or his designee.</i> ● <i>Superintendent establishes school safety audit committee, recommends improvements (2013):</i> the <i>division superintendent shall</i> establish a school safety audit committee to <i>include, if available,</i> representatives of parents,

teachers, local law-enforcement, *emergency services agencies, local community services boards, and* judicial and public safety personnel. The school safety audit committee shall *review the completed school safety audits* and submit *any plans, as needed*, for improving school safety to *the division superintendent for submission to the local school board*.

- ***Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical Emergency Response Plan required for each school, and must share plans with first responders (2013)***: each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan, consistent with the definition provided in this section, *and shall provide copies of such plans to the chief law-enforcement officer, the fire chief, the chief emergency medical services official, and the emergency management official of the locality*.
- ***Specific first responders and groups must be included in crisis planning: effective July 2019, HB1737*** amended the Code to include first responders in the development and review of school crisis management plans.

D. Each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan, consistent with the definition provided in this section, and shall include the chief law-enforcement officer, the fire chief, the chief of the emergency medical services agency, the executive director of the relevant regional emergency medical services council, and the emergency management official of the locality, or their designees, in the development of such plans.

The five components of the Annual School Safety Audit are:

1. [School Safety Audit Survey](#)
2. [School Division Safety Audit Surveys](#)
3. [Crisis Management Plan Certification](#)
4. [Virginia Secondary School Climate Survey](#)
5. School Safety Inspection Checklist and Certification

Resources:

- [Virginia School Safety Audit Infographic](#)
- [Model School Crisis, Emergency Management and Medical Emergency Response Plan](#)
- [School Safety Inspection Checklist - pdf](#)
- [School Safety Inspection Checklist - MSWord](#)
- [Guidance on School Safety Inspection Checklist](#)

Code of Virginia

[§ 22.1-276.01](#)

[§ 22.1-291.4](#)

[§ 22.1-208.01](#)

Defines "bullying" in the *Code of Virginia* and requires each school board (by July 2014) to:

- include a prohibition against bullying in its code of student conduct policies and procedures.
- implement policies and procedures to educate school board employees about bullying, as defined in [§ 22.1-276.01](#), and the need to create a bully-free environment.

Excerpt from code:

D. Each school board shall include in its code of student conduct, by July 1, 2014, a prohibition against bullying among students on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity to reduce incidents of bullying, to promote a safe learning environment in each school in the local school division, and to reduce interruptions to educational programs in each school in the local school division. Each school board shall include in its code of student conduct, by July 1, 2014, policies and procedures to:

1. *Enable any student to anonymously report an act of bullying to any school employee;*
2. *Enable any school employee who has received a report of bullying to report the act of bullying to a school administrator or his designee;*
3. *Require school administrators or their designees to investigate each credible report of bullying and ensure that such investigation is completed promptly after receipt of such report;*
4. *Require school administrators or their designees to implement effective preventive and remedial measures to reduce bullying, including, as appropriate, (i) an intervention that is appropriate to the context and severity of any act of bullying by a student, (ii) an assessment, counseling, positive behavioral intervention plans, and other methods of support for any student who has been bullied or has engaged in an act of bullying, and (iii) schoolwide bullying prevention, education, and awareness programs through the character education program established pursuant to [§ 22.1-208.01](#); and*
5. *Prohibit discrimination or retaliation against any student who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying.*

[§ 22.1-291.4](#). Bullying prohibited.

A. Each school board shall prohibit acts of bullying, as defined in [§ 22.1-276.01](#), among school employees to reduce incidents of bullying, to promote a safe learning environment in each school in the local school division, and to reduce interruptions to educational programs in each school in the local school division. Each school board shall implement, by July 1, 2014, policies and procedures to:

1. *Enable any school employee to anonymously report acts of bullying to a school administrator or his designee;*
2. *Require school administrators or their designees to investigate each credible report of bullying and ensure that such investigation is completed promptly after receipt of such report;*
3. *Require school administrators or their designees to implement effective preventive and remedial measures to reduce bullying, including, as appropriate, (i) an intervention that is appropriate to the context and severity of any act of*

	<p><i>bullying by a school employee, (ii) an assessment, counseling, positive behavioral intervention plans, and other methods of support for any school employee who has been bullied or has engaged in an act of bullying, and (iii) schoolwide bullying prevention, education, and awareness programs for all school employees;</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. <i>Prohibit discrimination or retaliation against any school employee who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying; and</i> 5. <i>Require all school employees to comply with all federal and state civil rights laws and regulations prohibiting discriminatory harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex, or disability.</i> <p><i>B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the employee/supervisor relationship as defined by local school board policy.</i></p> <p><i>DCJS is required to provide anti-bullying training:</i> <i>§ 9.1-184. Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety created; duties.</i> A. From such funds as may be appropriated, the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (the Center) is hereby established within the Department. The Center shall: 1. Provide training for Virginia public school personnel in school safety, on evidence-based antibullying tactics based on the definition of bullying in § 22.1-276.01, and in the effective identification of students who may be at risk for violent behavior and in need of special services or assistance;</p> <p><i>Resources:</i> <i>Model Policy provided by the Department of Education.</i> http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/prevention/bullying/index.shtml</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p><i>Code of Virginia</i> § 2.2-3705.2 § 19.2-11.01 §22.1-279.8</p>	<p>Crisis Management and Emergency Plans</p> <p>Effective July 2013, in accordance with the amended Code of Virginia § 22.1-279.8 titled: "School safety audits and school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans":</p> <p>D. Each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan, consistent with the definition provided in this section, <i>and shall provide copies of such plans to the chief law-enforcement officer, the fire chief, the chief emergency medical services official, and the emergency management official of the locality. Each school division shall designate an emergency manager.</i> The Department of Education and the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety shall provide technical assistance to the school divisions of the Commonwealth in the development of the school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans that describe the components of a medical emergency response plan developed in coordination with local emergency medical services providers, the training of school personnel and students to respond to</p>

a life-threatening emergency, and the equipment required for this emergency response. The local school board shall annually review the written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans. The local school board shall have the authority to withhold or limit the review of any security plans and specific vulnerability assessment components as provided in subdivision 7 of [§ 2.2-3705.2](#). The local school division superintendent shall certify this review in writing to the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety no later than August 31 of each year.

The plan shall include a provision that the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund shall be contacted immediately to deploy assistance in the event of an emergency as defined in the emergency response plan when there are victims as defined in [§ 19.2-11.01](#). The Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund shall be the lead coordinating agencies for those individuals determined to be victims, and the plan shall contain current contact information for both agencies.

Effective July 2019, HB1737 amends the Code to include first responders in the development and review of school crisis management plans.

An Act to amend and reenact [§ 22.1-279.8](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to development and review of school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans; include certain first responders.

D. Each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan, consistent with the definition provided in this section, and shall ~~provide copies of such plans to~~ *include* the chief law-enforcement officer, the fire chief, the chief of the emergency medical services agency, *the executive director of the relevant regional emergency medical services council, and the emergency management official of the locality, or their designees, in the development of such plans*. Each school division shall designate an emergency manager. The Department of Education and the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety shall provide technical assistance to the school divisions of the Commonwealth in the development of the school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans that describe the components of a medical emergency response plan developed in coordination with local emergency medical services providers, the training of school personnel and students to respond to a life-threatening emergency, and the equipment required for this emergency response. The local school board *and the chief law-enforcement officer, the fire chief, the chief of the emergency medical services agency, the executive director of the relevant regional emergency medical services council, and the emergency management official of the locality, or their designees,* shall annually review the written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans. The local school board shall have the authority to withhold or limit the review of any security plans and specific vulnerability assessment components as provided in subdivision 4 of [§ 2.2-3705.2](#). The local school division superintendent shall certify this review in writing to the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety no later than August 31 of each year.

	<p>Resources: School Crisis, Emergency Management and Medical Emergency Response Plan School Crisis, Emergency Management and Medical Emergency Response Plan-Quick Guide Guidance for School Systems in the Event Victims Arise from an Emergency 2018</p>
<p>5</p> <p><i>Code of Virginia</i></p> <p>§ 9.1-184.9</p>	<p>Critical Incident Response Model Curriculum (2013)</p> <p>§9.1-184. Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety created; duties. A. From such funds as may be appropriated, the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (the Center) is hereby established within the Department. The Center shall: 9. Develop, in conjunction with the Department of State Police, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and the Department of Education, a model critical incident response training program for public school personnel and others providing services to schools that shall also be made available to private schools in the Commonwealth; and</p> <p>Provision in Code in the Event Victims Arise from an Emergency §22.1-279.8, "School safety audits and school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans" includes a provision that <i>the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund shall be contacted immediately to deploy assistance in the event of an emergency as defined in the emergency response plan when there are victims as defined in § 19.2-11.01. The Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund shall be the lead coordinating agencies for those individuals determined to be victims, and the plan shall contain current contact information for both agencies.</i></p> <p>Resources: Critical Incident Response Video Critical Incident Response for School Faculty and Staff Guidance for School Systems in the Event Victims Arise from an Emergency 2018</p>
<p>6</p> <p><i>Code of Virginia</i></p> <p>§§ 22.1-137 and 22.1-137.2</p> <p>Statewide Fire Prevention</p>	<p>Drills, Required (2016)</p> <p>Lockdown Drills (LEGAL REFERENCES: <i>Code of Virginia</i> § 22.1-137.2 and Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) Sections 404.2.3 and 405.1)</p> <p>NOTE: <i>During the 2016 General Assembly session, the Virginia Code was amended to require every public school to hold a lock-down drill at least twice during the first 20 school days of each school session and at least two additional lock-down drills during the</i></p>

<p>Code (SFPC) Sections 404.2.3 and 405.1</p> <p>Board of Education Regulation 8VAC20-131-26 0</p>	<p><i>remainder of the school session. A school that holds two lockdown drills during the first 20 days of school and two additional lock down drills during the second semester will be in compliance with the Virginia Code.</i></p> <p><i>The Code of Virginia mandates separate and distinct codes for a fire evacuation drill from a lockdown drill [Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) Section 404.2.3]. Whatever methods of signaling emergency response behaviors are needed, the signals should be well understood during drills and practiced by everyone at the school or on the campus.</i></p> <p>July 1, 2016 legislation amended <i>Code of Virginia</i> § 22.1-137 to require that every public school conduct a fire drill at least twice during the first 20 days of school and conduct at least two additional fire drills during the remainder of the school year.</p> <p><u>Fire Drills</u></p> <p>The Virginia <i>Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC)</i> (Sections 404.2.3 and 405.1) has a more stringent requirement of an initial fire drill within the first 10 days of the school session and one fire drill per month. You may be aware that the State Fire Marshall at the Department of Housing and Community Development recently advised that a school that holds an initial fire drill within the first 10 days of the school session, another fire drill within the first 20 days of the school session, and one fire drill per month, will be in compliance with both the Code of Virginia and the SFPC.</p> <p>However, Section 8VAC20-131-260 of the Board of Education’s <i>Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia (Standards of Accreditation)</i> requires that every public school conduct fire drills at least once a week during the first month of school, and at least conduct at least two additional fire drills during the remainder of the school term. Therefore, in order to comply with the <i>Statewide Fire Prevention Code</i> and the <i>Standards of Accreditation</i>, every public school will still need to conduct at least one fire drill per week during the first month of school and at least one fire drill each month for the remainder of the school year.</p> <p>Resources: Virginia Educator's Drill Guide Guidance on Required Evacuation/Fire and Lockdown Drills 2016</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Code of Virginia § 22.1-279.8</p>	<p>Emergency Manager (2013)</p> <p>The following are excerpts from § 22.1-279.8. School safety audits and school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans required by the <i>Code of Virginia</i> that pertain specifically to the designation of an emergency manager.</p> <p>D. Each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan, consistent with</p>

	<p>the definition provided in this section, <i>and shall provide copies of such plans to the chief law enforcement officer, the fire chief, the chief emergency medical services official, and the emergency management official of the locality.</i></p> <p>Resources: Guidance on Emergency Manager Designee</p>
<p>8</p> <p><i>Code of Virginia</i> §9.1-184 22.1-79.4 § 22.1-279.8 § 2.2-3705.2.</p>	<p>Freedom of Information Act</p> <p>Excerpt of Information that can be withheld from public record:</p> <p>§ 2.2-3705.2. Exclusions to application of chapter; records relating to public safety.</p> <p>13. Records received by the Department of Criminal Justice Services pursuant to §9.1-184, 22.1-79.4, and § 22.1-279.8 or for purposes of evaluating threat assessment teams established by a public institution of higher education pursuant to § 23.1-805 or by a private nonprofit institution of higher education, to the extent such records reveal security plans, walk-through checklists, or vulnerability and threat assessment components.</p>
<p>9</p> <p><i>Code of Virginia</i> § 22.1-280.2:3</p>	<p>Memorandum of Understanding (2019)</p> <p>HB1733 and SB1214 Requires development, by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, of a model memorandum of understanding setting forth the respective roles and responsibilities of local school boards and local law-enforcement agencies regarding the use of school resource officers. Such model memorandum of understanding may be used by local school boards and local law-enforcement agencies to satisfy the requirements of § 22.1-280.2:3. http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1733</p> <p><i>Amends and reenacts §9.1-184 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-280.2:3, relating to school boards; local law-enforcement agencies; school resource officers; memorandums of understanding.</i></p> <p>§ 22.1-280.2:3. School boards; local law-enforcement agencies; memorandums of understanding. <i>The school board in each school division in which the local law-enforcement agency employs school resource officers, as defined in § 9.1-101, shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with such local law-enforcement agency that sets forth the powers and duties of such school resource officers. The provisions of such memorandum of understanding shall be based on the model memorandum of understanding developed by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety pursuant to subdivision A 11 of §9.1-184, which may be modified by the parties in accordance with their particular needs.</i></p>

	<p><i>Each such school board and local law-enforcement agency shall review and amend or affirm such memorandum at least once every five years or at any time upon the request of either party.</i></p>
<p>10</p>	<p>School Building Plan Review (2019)</p> <p>Effective July, 2019 (HB1738 and SB1215) Amends and reenacts § 22.1-140 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school buildings requires the plans and specifications for new or remodeled public school building construction to be reviewed by an individual or entity with professional expertise in crime prevention through environmental design. All comments by such reviewer shall be submitted to the Superintendent of Public Instruction along with the final plans and specifications.</p> <p>1. That § 22.1-140 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:</p> <p>§ 22.1-140. Plans for buildings to be approved by division superintendent.</p> <p>No public school building or addition or alteration thereto, for either permanent or temporary use, shall be advertised for bid, contracted for, erected, or otherwise acquired until the plans and specifications therefor (i) have been approved in writing by the division superintendent and; (ii) are accompanied by a statement by an architect or professional engineer licensed by the Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers and Landscape Architects that such plans and specifications are, in his professional opinion and belief, in compliance with the regulations of the Board of Education and the Uniform Statewide Building Code; and (iii) have been reviewed by an individual or entity with professional expertise in building security and crime prevention through building design. The division superintendent's approval, architect's or engineer's statement, <i>all reviewers' comments</i>, and a copy of the final plans and specifications shall be submitted to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.</p>
<p>11</p> <p><i>Code of Virginia</i></p> <p>§ 9.1-101</p> <p>§§ 9.1-102 and 22.1-279.8</p>	<p>School Resource Officers</p> <p>§ 9.1-101 defines an SRO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A certified law-enforcement officer • Hired by local law-enforcement agency • Provides law-enforcement and security services to public elementary and secondary schools • Police Departments and Sheriff's Offices can place any officer in a school as they deem appropriate. • Until July 2019 legislation there was not a separate certification for SROs.

<p>9.1-114.1</p>	<p>Effective July 1, 2019 (HB2609 and SB1130) Amends §§ 9.1-102 and 22.1-279.8 of the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 9.1-114.1 to:</p> <p>54. <i>Establish compulsory minimum training standards for certification and recertification of law-enforcement officers serving as school resource officers. Such training shall be specific to the role and responsibility of a law-enforcement officer working with students in a school environment; and</i></p> <p>§ 9.1-114.1. <i>Compliance with minimum training standards by school resource officers. Every full-time or part-time law-enforcement officer employed as a school resource officer after July 1, 2020, shall comply with the compulsory minimum training standards for school resource officers established by the Board within a period fixed by the Board. The Department shall ensure that such required training is available throughout the Commonwealth.</i></p>
<p>12</p> <p><i>Code of Virginia</i> §§ 9.1-101, 18.2-57, and 22.1-280.2:1</p> <p>§ 9.1-102.44</p> <p><i>Board of Education Regulation</i> 6 VAC 20-240</p>	<p>School Security Officer Certification Program</p> <p>§ 9.1-101 defines an SSO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employed by local school board • Maintains order and discipline, prevents crime, investigates violations of school board policies • Detains students violating the law or school board policies on school property or at school-sponsored events • Ensures safety, security, and welfare of school students, faculty, staff and visitors <p>In 2001, the General Assembly authorized the Virginia Crime Commission to study School Security Officer (SSO) programs throughout Virginia. This resulted in legislation that requires all SSOs to be certified through the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) SSO Certification Program (§ 9.1-102.44). SSO training requirements and other regulations can be found in Regulation 6 VAC 20-240.</p> <p>Effective July 1, 2019 (HB1656) <i>An Act to amend and reenact §§ 9.1-101, 18.2-57, and 22.1-280.2:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school security officers; private or religious schools; carrying a firearm in performance of duties.</i></p> <p><i>Changes the definition of school security officer in § 9.1-101. Definitions.</i></p> <p><i>School security officer" means an individual who is employed by the local school board or a private or religious school for the singular purpose of maintaining order and discipline, preventing crime, investigating violations of the policies of the school board policies or the private or religious school, and detaining students violating the law or the policies of the school board or the private or religious school policies on school property, school buses, or at school-sponsored events and who is</i></p>

	<p>responsible solely for ensuring the safety, security, and welfare of all students, faculty, staff, and visitors in the assigned school.</p> <p>Adds private and religious schools to those public school security officers that must be trained and certified in § 22.1-280.2:1. Employment of school security officers: Local school boards and private or religious schools may employ school security officers, as defined in § 9.1-101, for the purposes set forth therein. Such school security officer may carry a firearm in the performance of his duties if (i) within 10 years immediately prior to being hired by the local school board or private or religious school he was an active law-enforcement officer as defined in § 9.1-101 in the Commonwealth; (ii) he retired or resigned from his position as a law-enforcement officer in good standing; (iii) he meets the training and qualifications described in subsection C of § 18.2-308.016; (iv) he has provided proof of completion of a training course that includes training in active shooter emergency response, emergency evacuation procedure, and threat assessment to the Department of Criminal Justice Services pursuant to subdivision 42 of § 9.1-102, provided that if he received such training from a local law-enforcement agency he received the training in the locality in which he is employed; (v) the local school board or private or religious school solicits input from the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality regarding the qualifications of the school security officer and receives verification from such chief law-enforcement officer that the school security officer is not prohibited by state or federal law from possessing, purchasing, or transporting a firearm; and (vi) the local school board or private or religious school grants him the authority to carry a firearm in the performance of his duties.</p>
<p>13 <i>Code of Virginia</i> §9.1-184</p>	<p>Training, Provision of</p> <p><u>Public School Personnel, Anti-Bullying:</u></p> <p>§9.1-184. Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety created; duties. A. From such funds as may be appropriated, the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (the Center) is hereby established within the Department. The Center shall: 1. Provide training for Virginia public school personnel in school safety, on evidence-based antibullying tactics based on the definition of bullying in § 22.1-276.01, and in the effective identification of students who may be at risk for violent behavior and in need of special services or assistance;</p> <p><u>Safety Training Delivered to Students and Employees Annually</u></p> <p>Effective July 1, 2019 (HB1732) §22.1-137.3. School safety procedures; emergency situations; annual training. In addition to complying with the requirements for drills set forth in §§ 22.1-137, 22.1-137.1, and 22.1-137.2, each school board shall develop training on safety procedures in the event of an emergency situation on school property. Such training shall be delivered to each student and employee in each school at least once each school year. 2019, cc. 61, 140.</p>

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered [22.1-137.3](#) as follows:

§ [22.1-137.3](#). School safety procedures; emergency situations; annual training.

In addition to complying with the requirements for drills set forth in §§ [22.1-137](#), [22.1-137.1](#), and [22.1-137.2](#), each school board shall develop training on safety procedures in the event of an emergency situation on school property. Such training shall be delivered to each student and employee in each school at least once each school year.

2. That the Board of Education shall develop guidelines for the development and delivery of training required by this act.

School Administrators, School Safety Training

Effective July 1, 2019 ([SB1130](#))

Amends §§ [9.1-102](#) and [22.1-279.8](#) of the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered [9.1-114.1](#) to:

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.

SROs

Effective July 1, 2019 ([HB2609](#) and [SB1130](#))

Amends §§ [9.1-102](#) and [22.1-279.8](#) of the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered [9.1-114.1](#) to:

54. Establish compulsory minimum training standards for certification and recertification of law-enforcement officers serving as school resource officers. Such training shall be specific to the role and responsibility of a law-enforcement officer working with students in a school environment; and

§ [9.1-114.1](#). Compliance with minimum training standards by school resource officers.

Every full-time or part-time law-enforcement officer employed as a school resource officer after July 1, 2020, shall comply with the compulsory minimum training standards for school resource officers established by the Board within a period fixed by the Board. The Department shall ensure that such required training is available throughout the Commonwealth.

	<p>SSOs</p> <p>Effective July 1, 2019 (HB1656) <i>An Act to amend and reenact §§ 9.1-101, 18.2-57, and 22.1-280.2:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school security officers; private or religious schools; carrying a firearm in performance of duties.</i></p> <p>Adds private and religious schools to those public school security officers that must be trained and certified in § 22.1-280.2:1. Employment of school security officers: Local school boards <i>and private or religious schools</i> may employ school security officers, as defined in § 9.1-101, for the purposes set forth therein. Such school security officer may carry a firearm in the performance of his duties if (i) within 10 years immediately prior to being hired by the local school board <i>or private or religious school</i> he was an active law-enforcement officer as defined in § 9.1-101 in the Commonwealth; (ii) he retired or resigned from his position as a law-enforcement officer in good standing; (iii) he meets the training and qualifications described in subsection C of § 18.2-308.016; (iv) he has provided proof of completion of a training course that includes training in active shooter emergency response, emergency evacuation procedure, and threat assessment to the Department of Criminal Justice Services pursuant to subdivision 42 of § 9.1-102, provided that if he received such training from a local law-enforcement agency he received the training in the locality in which he is employed; (v) the local school board <i>or private or religious school</i> solicits input from the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality regarding the qualifications of the school security officer and receives verification from such chief law-enforcement officer that the school security officer is not prohibited by state or federal law from possessing, purchasing, or transporting a firearm; and (vi) the local school board <i>or private or religious school</i> grants him the authority to carry a firearm in the performance of his duties.</p>
<p>14 Code of Virginia</p> <p>§9.1-184</p> <p>§22.1-79.4</p> <p>§ 22.1-279.3:1</p> <p>§ 23.1-805</p>	<p>Threat Assessment Teams, K12 (2013)</p> <p><i>One of the responsibilities of the Center is to provide training to threat assessment teams:</i></p> <p>§9.1-184. Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety created; duties.</p> <p>A. From such funds as may be appropriated, the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (the Center) is hereby established within the Department. The Center shall:</p> <p>10. <i>In consultation with the Department of Education, provide schools with a model policy for the establishment of threat assessment teams, including procedures for the assessment of and intervention with students whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of school staff or students.</i></p> <p><i>Threat Assessment teams became a requirement for public Virginia institutions of higher education in 2008, then for K-12 schools in 2013:</i></p>

[§ 23.1-805](#). Violence prevention committee; threat assessment team.

A. Each public institution of higher education shall establish policies and procedures for the prevention of violence on campus, including assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of the campus community.

[§ 22.1-79.4](#). Threat assessment teams and oversight committees.

- A. Each local school board ***shall adopt policies for the establishment of threat assessment teams***, including the assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of school staff or students ***consistent with the model policies developed by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety*** in accordance with [§9.1-184](#). Such policies shall include procedures for referrals to community services boards or health care providers for evaluation or treatment, when appropriate.
- B. The superintendent of each school division ***may establish a committee charged with oversight of the threat assessment teams operating within the division***, which may be an existing committee established by the division. The committee shall include individuals with expertise in human resources, education, school administration, mental health, and law enforcement.
- C. Each division superintendent shall establish, for each school, ***a threat assessment team that shall include persons with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration, and law enforcement***. Threat assessment teams may be established to serve one or more schools as determined by the division superintendent. ***Each team shall (i) provide guidance to students, faculty, and staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior*** that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self; (ii) identify members of the school community to whom threatening behavior should be reported; and (iii) implement policies adopted by the local school board pursuant to subsection A.
- D. Upon a preliminary determination that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to self or others, a threat assessment ***team shall immediately report its determination to the division superintendent or his designee***. The division superintendent or his designee shall immediately attempt to notify the student's parent or legal guardian. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude school division personnel from acting immediately to address an imminent threat.
- E. Each threat assessment team established pursuant to this section ***shall report quantitative data*** on its activities according to guidance developed by the Department of Criminal Justice Services.
- F. Upon a preliminary determination by the threat assessment team that an ***individual*** poses a threat of violence to self or others or exhibits significantly disruptive behavior or need for assistance, a ***threat assessment team may obtain criminal history record information***, as provided in §§ [19.2-389](#) and [19.2-389.1](#), and health records, as provided in § [32.1-127.1:03](#). No member of a threat assessment team shall redisclose any criminal history record information or health information obtained pursuant to this section or otherwise use any record of an individual beyond the purpose for which such disclosure was made to the threat assessment team.

2013, c. [710](#); 2014, cc. [7](#), [158](#); 2016, c. [554](#).

Related legislation:

Immunity from Civil Liability (2013)

Expands current Virginia law § 8.01-47 by extending civil immunity to any *person* who, in good faith with reasonable cause and without malice, acts to report, investigate or cause any investigation to be made into the activities of any student or students or any other person or persons as they relate to conduct involving bomb threats, firebombs, explosive materials or other similar devices as described in clauses (vi) and (vii) of *subsection A* of § [22.1-279.3:1](#) A, or alcohol or drug use or abuse in or related to the school or institution or in connection with any school or institution activity, *or information that an individual poses any credible danger of serious bodily injury or death to one or more students, school personnel, or others on school property* shall be immune from all civil liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed as the result of the making of such a report, investigation or disclosure.

Juvenile Information Sharing (2013)

Facilitates the sharing of juvenile law-enforcement records by the principal of the school to threat assessment teams stating specifically that *in addition to any other disclosure that is permitted by this subsection, the principal in his discretion may provide such information to a threat assessment team established by the local school division. No member of a threat assessment team shall (a) disclose any juvenile record information obtained pursuant to this section or (b) use such information for any purpose other than evaluating threats to students and school personnel. For the purposes of this subsection, "principal" also refers to the chief administrator of any private primary or secondary school.*

Information that can be withheld from public record

§ 2.2-3705.2. Exclusions to application of chapter; records relating to public safety.

13. Records received by the Department of Criminal Justice Services pursuant to §§ [9.1-184](#), [22.1-79.4](#), and [22.1-279.8](#) or for purposes of evaluating threat assessment teams established by a public institution of higher education pursuant to § [23.1-805](#) or by a private nonprofit institution of higher education, to the extent such records reveal security plans, walk-through checklists, or vulnerability and threat assessment components.

[HB1734 and SB1213](#) (Threat Assessment) Case Management Tool (2019)

Amends §§ [9.1-184](#) and [22.1-79.4](#) of the Code of Virginia as follows:

§ [9.1-184](#). Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety created; duties.

A. From such funds as may be appropriated, the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (the Center) is hereby established within the Department. The Center shall:

1. Provide training for Virginia public school personnel in school safety, on evidence-based antibullying tactics based on the definition of bullying in § [22.1-276.01](#), and in the effective identification of students who may be at risk for violent behavior and in need of special services or assistance;
2. Serve as a resource and referral center for Virginia school divisions by conducting research, sponsoring workshops, and providing information regarding current school safety concerns, such as conflict management and peer mediation, bullying as defined in § [22.1-276.01](#), school facility design and technology, current state and federal statutory and regulatory school safety requirements, and legal and constitutional issues regarding school safety and individual rights;
3. Maintain and disseminate information to local school divisions on effective school safety initiatives in Virginia and across the nation;
4. *Develop a case management tool for the collection and reporting of data by threat assessment teams pursuant to § [22.1-79.4](#)...*

Resources:

[Threat Assessment in Virginia Public Schools: Model Policies, Procedures and Guidelines - pdf](#)

[Threat Assessment in Virginia Public Schools: Model Policies, Procedures and Guidelines - MSWord](#)

[K-12 Threat Assessment in Virginia: A Prevention Overview for School Staff, Parents, and Community Members](#)

[K-12 Threat Assessment Video](#)

[K-12 Threat Assessment Form - Fillable pdf](#)

[K-12 Threat Assessment Form - Fillable MSWord](#)

[Technical Assistance for Threat Assessment and Management Teams for Virginia Schools and Institutions of Higher Education](#)

[Threat Management Consultant - Request for Services](#)