



DON'T TAKE A BREAK FROM SAFETY THIS SUMMER!



From VCSCS Director Donna Michaelis:

Although the school year only recently finished, I am sure you have already begun to gear up for a new school year full of new ideas and the promise of a fresh start. Here at the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, we have multiple resources for you and your staff to keep safety in focus throughout the summer and into the start of the new school year.

In this edition, we will reflect on the 2023 Virginia School Survey of Climate and Working Conditions, share an SRO success story, and look at statewide data by the numbers regarding the ongoing School Safety Audit process. I am most excited to share with you the launch of our new online learning management platform, Benchmark Analytics. I also hope to see many of you at the 2023 School Safety Forum we are hosting later this month, but don't forget to take some time to enjoy the remainder of your summer break with your friends and families!

Remember, all of our conferences and trainings are posted on our website where you can also sign up for training update emails. If you have questions, comments, or content to share, please reach out to us at vcscs@dcjs.virginia.gov. Thank you for your continued partnership in making Virginia schools, campuses, and communities safer.

[Training Notification Emails](#)

[VCSCS
Website](#)

2023 Legislative Changes

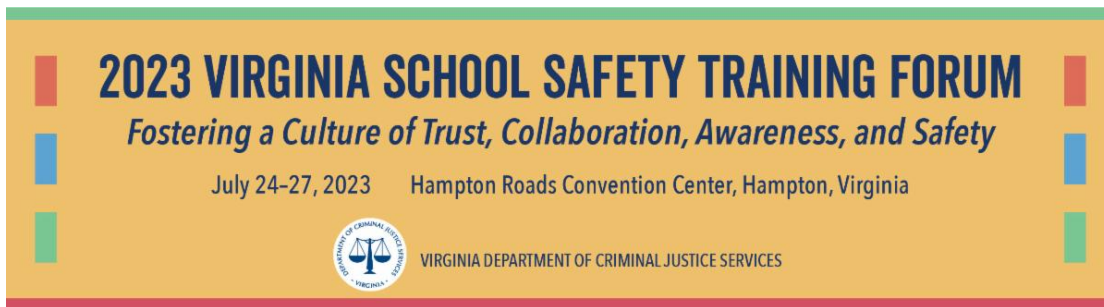
July 1 typically brings many new legislative changes across the Commonwealth.

For example; *Code of Virginia* § [22.1-79.4](#) now requires new threat assessment team members to complete initial training, and all members to complete refresher training every three years. See [our website](#) for threat assessment team trainings and resources.

To review what may affect your school or institution of higher learning please click the link below to view our summary of relevant legislative updates.

Legal
Updates

2023 School Safety Training Forum



2023 VIRGINIA SCHOOL SAFETY TRAINING FORUM
Fostering a Culture of Trust, Collaboration, Awareness, and Safety
July 24-27, 2023 Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton, Virginia
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

There is still time to join us in Hampton July 24-27, 2023!

This 22nd annual forum will feature engaging keynote speakers and interactive workshops.

We hope to welcome as many as 1,000 participants in the fields of school and division leadership, school security, law enforcement, Pre K-12 counseling and mental health, and many others with a role in ensuring schools are safe places to work and learn.

You don't want to miss this opportunity, so click the button below for more information! As a reminder, if you're already registered to attend, don't forget to log into [Sched](#) to select your breakout sessions. Spots are filling up quickly so log in soon to make sure you get your first choice!

Register Now

New Online Learning Platform!



We are excited to invite you to check out our new online learning management system, Benchmark!

Next time you register for a conference, in-person, or virtual training with us, you may be directed to the new site. If this is your first time accessing Benchmark, you will be instructed to create an account. This account will help you keep track of your upcoming trainings, record a history of your completed courses, and will offer new and on-demand classes to view at your leisure!

There is no need to wait, click the button below to create your account now and begin browsing our rapidly growing library of resources!

[These instructions](#) will help you create your account and [this guide](#) can show you where to go from there.

For questions or for technical assistance, please email [Dannie Anderson](#) or [Gillian Wilson](#).

**Create a Benchmark
Account**

After you create your Benchmark account:



What's available now?

- On-demand training for Standard Response Protocol and Reunification Methods
- Mental health supports
- The Impact of Trauma on Law Enforcement Conference registration
- and more!



What more can you expect?

- Social media training for threat assessment teams
- Campus threat assessment training
- Civilian Response and Casualty Care training registration
- Check back often for new content being added regularly!

SRO of the Quarter





Meet our SRO of the quarter, Officer Uyurre "BK" Brown-Kaleopaa with the Fredericksburg Police Department, who serves as the SRO at James Monroe High School. Officer Brown-Kaleopaa was nominated by the Fredericksburg City Public School Division and the Fredericksburg Police Department.

His supervisor, Lieutenant Aimee Lynch said;

"The position of SRO is complex and requires playing numerous different roles with staff and the students. Officer Brown-Kaleopaa has truly embraced and taken on the challenge of being an SRO and has done it with grace and is amazing at being an SRO. The City of Fredericksburg couldn't have received a better SRO. Officer Brown-Kaleopaa has responded in from home (after hours) in the middle of the night to assist patrol with a school related incident and taken over the investigation for patrol. Through all his investigations Officer Brown-Kaleopaa has built a great working relationship with CPS, juvenile intake, school staff, parents and most importantly the students (in every school)."

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Matt Eberhardt said;

"Officer BK is amazing. He has an easy going way about him that makes him approachable. There are students and staff who absolutely love him because they know he is a great guy. As a volunteer basketball coach, he attends student practices and games outside of his already long hours. He keeps district administration updated on potential situations and ongoing events - even when he is not on the clock. He certainly goes above-and-beyond. In a recent event honoring SROs, one person aptly described BK as an important part of our school family. There are no truer words."

James Monroe High School student R.J.T.:

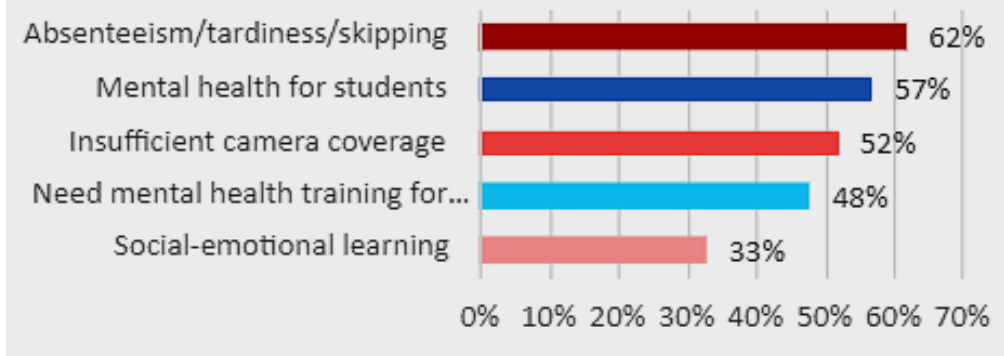
"He's a good dude. A very hardworking person who always takes time to listen to the students. He's very reliable and you can always count on him."

Congratulations Officer Brown-Kaleopaa! We commend you for making such a significant and positive impact on your schools and community.

[Nominate an SRO](#)

Did You Know?

Top identified areas of need in schools from the 2022 Division Safety Survey N=132



This graph illustrates the top five areas of need identified by Virginia public K-12 schools in the 2022 School Safety Audit.

Absenteeism/tardiness/skipping: 524 schools (26%) reported seeing a decrease in student attendance from the previous year. 479 of those schools attributed the change to pandemic related issues. Nineteen percent (19%) of high school students surveyed reported that they had been absent at least one day of school because they felt unsafe at or on their way to or from school.

Mental health: Thirty-seven percent of schools (732) stated that they were not able to provide sufficient mental health support for students and staff. Of these schools, 435 (59%) stated the main issue was the lack of personnel. Only 23% of high school students that participated in the survey reported they had participated in suicide prevention or mental health training.

Cameras: According to the 2022 School Safety Survey 33% of schools (653) are in need of cameras or camera system upgrades. Cameras or system upgrades are reported to be needed in 31% of elementary schools, 41% of middle schools, 36% of high schools and 27% of schools with combined grade levels.

Social-emotional learning: Seventy-eight percent (78%) of students agreed that they stop and think before acting when angry and 77% reported that they work out disagreements with other students by talking. The majority of students, 94%, stated they know how to decide right from wrong and 86% believe they can control themselves when upset.

Summer is a great time to pause and look at what areas to improve on for the coming school year. Review camera access as well as key inventory and card reader access. While you're at it, ensure your campuses have appropriate and visible signage free from damage or obstructions. Explore ways to implement mental health training and supports for students and staff.

[Mental Health Resources](#)

[2022 Safety Audit Report](#)

Thank you to our public Pre-K through 8th-grade colleagues for their participation in the 2023 Virginia School Survey of Climate and Working Conditions.

Over 1,500 schools surveyed 184,000 students in grades 6-8 and 66,000 staff serving Pre-K through 8th grades. VCSCS staff recognize and appreciate the administration efforts taken, and have now provided the reports to each school division for distribution to each of their applicable schools.

Be on the lookout for the statewide reports to be posted to our website soon!

Students in 9-12th grades and the staff that serve them will be invited to participate in the 2024 Virginia School Survey of Climate and Working Conditions beginning January 15, 2024.

Please see your division representative for individualized reports. Still have questions? Email VASchoolsurvey@dcjs.virginia.gov.

Survey Results

Next Issue: National Threat Assessment Conference and Civilian Response and Casualty Care training opportunities!



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