School Security Officer Certification Program

Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety School Division **Points of Contact** Webex Workshop March 2, 2020

WELCOME - We're Glad You're Here!

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What We Would Like to Accomplish Today



- 1. Overview of the SSO Program
- 2. Your Role as the POC
- 3. Review of the certification process
- 4. Forms
- 5. Database access and procedures
- 6. Touch on resources
- 7. How and where to get help



The Virginia School Security Officer Program

What exactly is a SCHOOL SECURITY OFFICER?

§ 9.1-101 defines a School Security Officer (SSO):

- 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

I'm a POC - What *exactly* does that mean??

Each school division (or private school) employing SSOs designates a Point of Contact (POC) between DCJS and the school division.

To designate the POC, the superintendent or their designee should email the contact information to schoolsecurity@dcjs.virginia.gov requesting access to the SSO Database. *There will be a designation form for this purpose in the future.*

The POC is a school board employee and is responsible for:

- 1. Entering newly hired or rehired SSOs into the DCJS SSO database
- 2. Ensuring completion of certification / recertification requirements
- 3. Updating database records and information as needed
- 4. Submitting applications and training documentation to DCJS through the <u>schoolsecurity@dcjs.virginia.gov</u> email address



You are, to use a metaphor, the bridge between the school division SSOs and DCJS



VIRGINIA LAW Administrative Code - Search Administrative Code Code of Virginia Table of Contents » Title 6. Criminal Justice and Corrections » Agency 20. Department of Criminal Justice Services » Chapter 240. Regulations Relating to School Security Officers Administrative Code View by Agency ← Chapter → Screate a Report 🔒 Print Search Chapter keyword **Emergency Regulations** Chapter 240. Regulations Relating to School Security Officers (Read Chapter) VAC# LOOK UP ex. 2VAC5-30-10 Go Definitions Section 10 Initial certification and training requirements for school security officers Section 20 Constitution of Virginia Section 30 Department certification procedures School security officer standards of conduct Section 40 Charters Recertification of school security officers Section 50 **Authorities** Section 60 Decertification and appeal procedure Instructor application Section 70 Compacts Section 80 Renewal instructor application School security officer instructor standards of conduct Section 90 Uncodified Acts

- Section 100 School security officer instructor administrative requirements
- Approval authority Section 110
- Section 120 Hearing process

Website addresses provided in the Virginia Administrative Code to documents incorporated by reference are for the reader's convenience only, may not necessarily be active or current, and should not be relied upon. To ensure the information incorporated by reference is accurate, the reader is encouraged to use the source document described in the regulation.

As a service to the public, the Virginia Administrative Code is provided online by the Virginia General Assembly. We are unable to answer legal questions or respond to requests for legal advice, including application of law to specific fact. To understand and protect your legal rights, you should consult an attorney.

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6VAC20-240-20. Initial Certification and Training Requirements

Paraphrased below

A. In addition to meeting all the hiring requirements of the employing school board, all school security officers are required to meet the following minimum certification and training requirements. Such person shall:

1. Undergo a background investigation to include fingerprint-based criminal history record inquiry Results of such inquiries shall be examined by the employing school division within 30 days of date of hire;

2. Have a high school diploma, or GED;

3. Be a minimum of 21 years of age;

4. Possess a valid driver's license if required by the duties of office to operate a motor vehicle;

5. Successfully complete basic first aid training. The level and substance of such training shall be at the discretion of the employing school division;

6. Comply with compulsory minimum entry-level training requirements approved by the board:

7. Submit to the department a properly completed and signed application for certification from the localities in a format provided by the department.

6VAC20-240-30. Department Certification Procedures

Paraphrased below

A. The **department will notify** the applicant for school security officer certification and the superintendent of the employing school division **that the school security officer is certified** in accordance with this regulation **after the following conditions are met:**

1. Notification to the department by the instructor that the applicant for school security officer certification has successfully completed the compulsory minimum entry-level training;

2. Receipt by the department of signed application for certification.

B. If a school security officer seeking certification is denied by the department, the department will notify the superintendent and the applicant by letter outlining the basis for the denial and the process for appeal of the decision to deny.

C. The department shall maintain a current database of certified school security officers as well as relevant training records.

D. Certification shall be for a period not to exceed 24 months.

What about ARMED SSOs?

Schools may employ armed SSOs provided they meet the statutory requirements of § 22.1-280.2:1. Employment of school security officers.

If your division employs armed SSOs, in addition to meeting the employment requirements set forth in Code, the POC must also submit a Training Completion Form signed by the chief law enforcement officer (or designee) certifying compliance with the additional training requirements.

For more detailed information on armed SSO requirements, please contact Kim directly

The <u>NEW</u> SSO - Initial Certification Process

- 1. HIRE
- 2. Ensure employment requirements are met
- 3. Enter new SSO in DATABASE
- 4. Complete Initial SSO Certification Training*
- 5. Submit Initial Certification Application
- 6. Submit a PIC form *if applicable***
- 7. And . . . **VOILA**!





The NEW Initial Certification Application Form

• SSO email	Commonwealth of Virginia Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services School Security Officer (SSO)
	Initial Certification Application
	To Designated Virginia School Security Officer's Point of Contact (POC): In order to conform to Virginia State Regulation 6 VIAC 20:240, all applicants for School Security Officer ontfloation must submit to the Vignia Department of Commal Justice (IUCS) appropriate and signed applicants for conflication on behalf of the School Security Officer is a format provided by OCJ. This form is required to be signed and received by DCJS before certification as a School Security Officer is issued and compliance with the regulation is complete.
	SSO Name (Fint, MI, Last)
	SSO Emai Address:
	School Division:
Date of hire	Date of Hire:
Training completion information	In accordance with 6 VAC 20.240.20 Initial Contification and Training Requirements for School Security Officers, all applicants for School Security Officer Certification, hired on or after September 1, 2004, must meet the following conditions. The above-named applicant. 1. has undergone a background investigation, including a fregeritric based driminal history record inquiry of both the Central Criminal Records Exchange (CPC) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). 2. results of such background inquiries were examined by the employing school division. 3. has a high school diptoma, has passed the General Education Development (GED) exam, or has passed the National External Diptoma program. 4. is a minimum of 21 years of age. 5. possesses a valid driver's license by his or her state of residence to operate a motor vehicle (if applicable by duties of office). 6. has successfully completed basic first aid training, the content of which determined by the employing school division. 7. has compleid with compulsory minimum entry-level School Security Officer training requirements on date. Location of training
	L the School Security Officer School Point of Contact, cerify that all entries on this application are true and complete. I understand that all information on this application is subject to verification. SSO POC Name:
POC detailed information	Date

6VAC20-240-50. Recertification

Paraphrased below

A. Applications for recertification **shall be received by the department at least 30 days before certification expiration**. It is the responsibility of the individual to ensure recertification applications are filed with the department. A valid certification as a school security officer is required in order to remain eligible for employment as a school security officer. If the school security officer recertification application is on file with the department 30 days prior to expiration, the school security officer may continue to operate in the school security officer capacity pending notification by the department.

B. Applicants for recertification must complete **16 hours of in-service training during each two-year period** after initial certification. *The in-service training must be school security officer related to include a legal update and other relevant topics approved by the department.*

C. Individuals whose certification is expired shall comply with the initial certification requirements set forth in this chapter.

The <u>CURRENT</u> SSO - Renewal Process

The SSO certification is valid for 2 years from issuance. To renew the certification, the POC must submit:

- A <u>recertification application</u>
- Verification of completion of at least 16 hours of *job related training* to include legal updates (PIC forms)

These documents should be submitted together

We would appreciate it if you would submit the recertification application and training verification (PIC forms) between 90 and 30 days prior to expiration.

UPDATE to the EXPIRATION DATE

- 1. In order to make life a little easier, we are going to adjust all SSO certification expirations dates to the end of the month.
- 2. For example: SSO John Test has a current expiration date of 4/12/2020. The next time you renew his certification, you will see 4/30/2022 as the expiration date.
- 3. This will result in only 12 possible expiration dates for you to manage.
- This process will begin in April 2020 and will continue until all new and existing SSO certifications reflect the change as they are renewed.

"Approved Training": What is it? Where do we get it?

- The **INITIAL** training must be the DCJS SSO Initial Certification Course
 - Taught by DCJS; or
 - Taught by an SSO Instructor employed by a school division already approved by DCJS
- SSO must attend all modules and complete all portions of the exam with a minimum score of 80%
- Rosters will be maintained by DCJS with all scores
- A DCJS approved PIC form is provided to attendees for the POC
 - NOTE: The PIC form for initial certification training completion is going to be updated soon

"Approved Training": What is it? Where do we get it?

- The **IN-SERVICE** training must be school security officer related to include a legal update and other relevant topics approved by the department.
- Most DCJS/VCSCS training would be eligible for PIC credit for the SSO
- If you are interested in sending folks to training outside of DCJS, please submit the following at least 2 weeks PRIOR

to the training so we can evaluate for PIC credit and send you an approval:

- Timed agenda to include breaks and date / time / location
- Training session description
- Instructor bio
- We are developing a new PIC request form for your use. Once this form is available, we will send it out to you!

Training: Our school division wants to train our own SSOs in-house. What is the process?

The division will need to have at least one individual certified by DCJS as an SSO Instructor.

- Submit the <u>SSO Instructor application</u>
- If all requirements cannot be met, the instructor applicant may submit a <u>Request for Waiver of Instructor Approval</u> <u>Qualifications</u>
- Instructor Certification is valid for 2 years. Prior to expiration, an <u>SSO Instructor Recertification Application</u> must be submitted along with training verification.

Once you have an approved instructor, they must submit a <u>Training Class Request</u> form to DCJS 30 days prior to the scheduled start date for a requested session.

The purpose for submitting the training request is to ensure that the most recent curriculum and tests are being used and provides an opportunity for outside divisions to attend, *if the division allows*

After the conclusion of the session, the instructor must submit all tests along with the daily training roster to schoolsecurity@dcjs.virginia.gov

Where To Find What I Need

We thought you'd never ask . . .

https://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/virginia-center-school-and-campus-safety/k-12/safety-security/school-security-officer-sso-certification-program

OR, if you are a visual learner . . .



The new SSO database is now online and ready for use. It is now required that all SSO Points of Contact enter their new employees into the database, upon hiring, and maintain their records via this site. If you need login information for the database, please email schoolsecurity@dcjs.wegma.gov.

The FORMS

Current

- School Security Officer Application
- School Security Officer Extension Request Form
- School Security Officer Recertification Application
- School Security Officer Instructor Application
- School Security Officer Instructor Waiver
- School Security Officer Instructor Recertification Application
- Training Class Request Form
- Partial In-service Credit Request Form
- Armed School Security Officer Training Completion

Under Development

NEW:

- Initial Certification Training Roster
- POC Designation Form
- Training Certificate of Completion (PIC for initial cert)

UPDATED:

- PIC Training Credit Application Form
- Certification with start and end dates
- Training Class Request Form

The DATABASE: How does it work?

• Once you are designated as a POC, DCJS staff will create your POC account and send you login credentials and temporary password.

• When you log in to the SSO database, you will land on your POC homepage

• This is where you will add SSOs, make changes, and review their status

POC HOMEPAGE

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Welcome Jane Test	logout
CONTACT	

Name:	Jane Test
Phone:	(804) - 205 - 3803
Email:	kim simon@dcjs virginia gov
School/Division:	VCSCS TEST School
Address:	123 Main Street Richmond, VA 23219
	Edit

Contact Info | Roles | Training History | Certifications | Search | All Available Trainings | My Trainings

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Virginia.gov Agencies | Governor

ADDING NEW SSO

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	Middle Initiat	
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Test, Joe		2022-02-04
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ROLES TAB

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CONTACT

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Add New Person

(2571) Joe Test

CERTIFIED

Contact Info | Roles | Training History | Certifications

Certification Date Begin Date Expire Date Status Certification VCSCS TEST School

Security Officer

2020-02-04 2022-02-04 ACTIVE

SAMPLE only for training purposes - KS 2/4/2020 Note:

Home

Contact the Director Contact Private Security Services Contact Regulatory Affairs Contact Law Enforcement Services Contact Victims Services Contact Juvenile Services

About the Director

Director's Bio

Human Trafficking Report Campus or Local Emergency Forfeited Asset Sharing Program Blueprints for Change: Criminal Justice

Policy Issues in Virginia

Quick Links

Strategic & Service Area Plans Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission Integrated Justice Program

CERTIFICATION TAB

Resources: Curious for more?

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VCSCS Resources Page

Virginia Dept. of Education

Legislative Information System

SchoolSafety.gov

VCSCS Memos



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Miscellaneous

Please notify us at the <u>schoolsecurity@dcjs.virginia.gov</u> email address of the following:

- 1. End of employment of SSO
- 2. Hiring an SSO who is coming from another school division
- 3. Hiring an ARMED SSO
- 4. Adding a POC

COMING SOON . . .

A WEBINAR FOR SSO INSTRUCTORS

- 1. Who is eligible
- 2. How to apply
- 3. Rules for conducting a session
- 4. Requirements for certification and recertification as an instructor
- 5. Paperwork and documentation
- 6. Forms
- 7. Instructional techniques
- 8. Introduction to the new curriculum

Need Us?

For all things related to applications, database, and forms . . . Contact Carol @ <u>schoolsecurity@dcjs.virginia.gov</u>

For program, roles, and training information or assistance . . . Contact Kim @ <u>kim.simon@dcjs.virginia.gov</u>



Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

TEAM K-12

K-12 Contacts

Supervisor

James Christian, K-12 School Safety and Threat Assessment Supervisor 804.357.0967 Email James

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Gillian Wilson, Resource Development and Online Training Coordinator 804.482.8922 Email Gillian

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!



