

**Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services**  
**Center for School and Campus Safety**

Richmond, VA

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Memo No. VCSCS 20-003

**MEMO To:** Virginia Public School Superintendents, Administrators, School Counselors, School Resource Officers, and Threat Assessment Team Members

**CC:** VCSCS Staff

**From:** Betsy Bell and Brad Stang, VCSCS Threat Assessment Program Coordinators

**Date:** September 13, 2019

**Subject:** **VCSCS Sponsored One-Day Threat Assessment Training Sessions**

To help schools comply with [VA Code §22.1-79.4](#) (creation of threat assessment teams) and [VA Code §9.1-184](#) (collection and reporting of data by threat assessment teams), the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services' (DCJS) Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS) is pleased to provide one-day threat assessment training sessions across the state. The goal of the training is to provide guidance and resources to existing school threat assessment teams as well as those who have new teams or additional staff members who need to be trained.

In addition to these sessions, the VCSCS provides model policies and protocols for threat assessment. These documents are available electronically at the DCJS [Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety](#) webpage.

**Who should attend?**

This training is offered to K-12 threat assessment team members which includes counselors, teachers, administrators, SROs, and other school and division level personnel as deemed appropriate. School and division based teams are encouraged to attend together, if possible.

**Topics to be addressed**

These one-day trainings are designed to provide participants with course material and supplemental resources to be able to conduct threat assessments in a K-12 threat assessment setting. Participants will receive the PowerPoint presentation and model policies and protocols.

Topics to be covered include:

- Rationale for a threat assessment approach to violence prevention
- The focus of threat assessments is preventative, not punitive
- Emphasis on “posing” a threat versus “making a threat”
- Why threat assessment is an alternative to zero tolerance and profiling approaches

- How to conduct a threat assessment
- The team approach and basic principles
- Use of the threat assessment decision-tree
- Distinguishing the various levels of threats (low, moderate, high, and imminent)
- Safety evaluations for imminent threats
- Legal issues and confidentiality
- Research support for threat assessment as an evidence-based practice
- Group case exercises
- Steps for implementing threat assessment in your school
- Completion of post-workshop evaluation

There is **no cost** for the training and materials. VCSCS strongly encourages schools and divisions that have not participated in prior trainings, or those that need updated training, to reach out to our Threat Assessment Program Coordinators to schedule a training.

**Contact Information:**

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We appreciate the tireless efforts of our K-12 partners to keep our schools safe and our staff stands ready to assist and support you in this effort.