

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
Center for School and Campus Safety
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Memo No. VCSCS 21-005

MEMO To: All Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety Subscribers

From: Donna Michaelis

Date: November 9, 2020

Subject: **Announcing Virginia's 2020 BJA STOP School Violence Grant Funding**

The DCJS Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS) was recently awarded a grant from the federal Department of Justice, under the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) ***Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Grant*** in the amount of \$1.83 million. This grant program is designed to improve school safety and security by providing students, teachers, and law enforcement partners with the tools they need to recognize, respond quickly to, and prevent potential acts of violence.

Through this funding, VCSCS will implement an innovative, 36-month project around VA C.A.R.E.S. in an effort to build Caring, Awareness, Recognition, Engagement, and Support in Virginia schools. VA C.A.R.E.S. will increase recognition of students at risk of self-harm or harm to others, and allow for increased interventions and supports provided through threat assessment teams. This project will include the following major initiatives:

- Implementation of a statewide youth suicide prevention public service announcement (PSA) campaign in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Health.
- Delivery of "Pathways of Prevention for School Violence" trainings for school personnel and local law enforcement.
- Delivery of "[Handle with Care](#)" trainings for local law enforcement and school staff.
- Development and production of virtual violence prevention training modules for school personnel and local law enforcement.

An advisory committee is currently being formed to guide the PSA campaign and VCSCS will utilize a number of data sources to collect, analyze, and report on the progress of this program. These sources will include the School Safety Audit Surveys, Secondary School Climate Surveys, training registration/evaluation logs, and Virginia Department of Health data.

VCSCS looks forward to working with local school divisions and law enforcement agencies to maximize the effectiveness of the grant initiatives. In the coming months, we will welcome input as we work to identify and prioritize sites for in-person training, adjust to the nuances associated with online, in-person, and hybrid learning, and develop the suicide prevention campaign in a way that best supports Virginia's 1.5 million students, staff, parents, and law enforcement partners.

If you would like to provide input, host a training, or be considered for service on the PSA Advisory Committee, please contact one of the VCSCS staff members below:

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