

**Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
Division of Public Safety Training
and the
Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (PST-VCSCS)**

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Memo No. VCSCS 24-001

MEMO To: K-12 School Superintendents and Emergency Managers

CC: Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety Staff

From: Donna Michaelis, Division Director, PST-VCSCS

Date: August 2, 2023

Subject: **2024 Virginia School Survey of Climate and Working Conditions**

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify school divisions that the 2024 Virginia School Survey of Climate and Working Conditions (VSS) will be administered to schools beginning January 15, 2024, and ending March 1, 2024. The VSS is a tool for division leaders and principals to monitor the climate and working environments in their schools. The survey administration reflects the continued partnership between the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to ensure the VSS meets both VDOE's legislative requirement, [Item 135.G of the 2022 Acts of Appropriation](#) and DCJS's mandate as described in the [Code of Virginia §22.1-279.8.B](#).

Any schools with regular education programs serving students in grades nine through twelve are required to administer the 2024 VSS. All schools meeting that criteria must invite all students in grades nine, ten, eleven, and twelve, and all licensed staff (instructional and support personnel) to complete the survey. The survey may also be administered to non-licensed staff or to adults in other educational settings (e.g., alternative or specialty centers) at the discretion of the school division.

The Virginia School Survey is anonymous, and an individual's participation is voluntary. Schools are required to advise students' parents and guardians of the survey at least 30 days before administration and provide them with the option to opt their student out of the survey, as described in the [Code of Virginia §22.1-79.3](#).

For further information, see [the VSS website](#). Correspondence regarding further instructions will be forthcoming. Questions about the Virginia School Survey of Climate and Working Conditions may be directed to the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, at vaschoolsurvey@dcjs.virginia.gov or 804-786-3923.