

**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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**To:** Virginia Public School Division Superintendents  
**From:** Donna Michaelis, Division Director  
**Date:** August 28, 2023  
**Subject:** Digital Threat Assessment Training

The [Division of Public Safety Training and the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety \(PST-VCSCS\)](#), a part of the Commonwealth of Virginia's [Department of Criminal Justice Services \(DCJS\)](#), provides training, resources, and technical assistance to all school and campus personnel and law enforcement. While this school year begins with its own set of challenges, the VCSCS staff welcomes you back and is ready to support your efforts to keep all Virginia schools safe and secure.

To coincide with the start of the 2023–2024 school year, we are excited to introduce a new training tool to support your threat assessment team's efforts, guided by Virginia legislation, including [§ 22.1-79.4](#). PST-VCSCS is the first in the Nation to offer this unique opportunity in partnership with Safer Schools Together and The International Center for Digital Threat Assessment, who are leading organizations specializing in threat assessment strategies.

This series of courses includes an in depth look at Digital Threat Assessment®, which is designed to provide your team with the tools they need to properly identify and understand online threat related behavior. Additionally, six micro-modules are also available, each focusing on a different popular social media platform. These modules will provide a high-level overview of the tool, common ways students are using it, and how your digital threat team can leverage the platform during a threat assessment. We are proud to announce that PST-VCSCS has made this training available for teachers, administrators, law enforcement, and other school safety personnel across the Commonwealth free of charge!

According to a 2023 survey conducted by Safer Schools Together, experts believe nearly 90% of threat assessments include a digital element. With this in mind, we encourage schools to leverage this training, helping empower their threat assessment teams to make informed decisions, and providing guidance as they learn how to expand threat assessment investigations into the digital world of social media. This e-content can be accessed via our new Benchmark

learning management system (LMS). Simply log in and search “DTA” in the Available Training tab. Please note, if you have not yet created your Benchmark account, you will need to do that first. to log into benchmark visit <http://training.benchmarkonline.app/dcjs>. For help creating your account, please follow [these instructions](#).

The entire PST-VCSCS team is committed to continuing to provide solutions for our K-12, higher education, and law enforcement partners, so [sign up for our newsletter](#) to stay informed! As always, thank you for your continued commitment in preserving safe learning environments for all Virginians.