The Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS), housed within the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) was recently awarded an $869,508 grant from the federal Department of Justice, under the Bureau of Justice Assistance’s (BJA) ***Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Threat Assessment and Technology Reporting Program***. The program is designed to improve school security by providing students and teachers with the tools they need to recognize, respond quickly to, and prevent acts of violence.

With this three-year grant, the VCSCS will expand training opportunities related to threat assessment across the Commonwealth, to schools requesting or identified as needing additional support in conducting behavioral threat assessments, building threat assessment teams, and navigating all aspects of threat assessment in support of VA Code. Through the grant the VCSCS will also establish a cadre of Threat Assessment trainers, offer consultation on Threat Assessment Team implementation, develop an online threat assessment training module, and improve the efficacy and efficiency of threat assessment data collection through the development of an online case management tool.

VCSCS looks forward to working with the Virginia Department of Education and local school divisions to maximize the effectiveness of the trainings, consultations, and case management tool.

In the coming months we will appreciate additional input as we work to identify critical capabilities and functionality of a threat assessment team case management system and the development of division specific training which will focus on the effective implementation of threat assessment protocols that are consistent with the VCSCS model, that account for the unique characteristics and resources of each division, and that develop the capacity of localities to maintain their own needs for ongoing training.

For additional information related to this grant or to host a training please contact James Christian at james.christian@dcjs.virginia.gov or Shellie Evers at shellie.evers@dcjs.virginia.gov