***School Safety Audit Threat Assessment Data Highlights for 2019-2020***

The School Safety Audit (SSA) is completed by each school and school division every school year. The information helps drive school safety both locally and at the state level. Part of the SSA includes a section on Threat Assessment (please refer to the PDF file on the SSA TA data for 2019-2020). Once the SSA is completed and our research department reviews and compiles all data, each school and division get a copy of their SSA for their review and reflection. At the state level and within VCSCS, we use the data to help drive our trainings (where they should be targeted regionally) along with areas that stand out for possible improvement. Case in point with this SSA, we noticed that 12% schools are not making parents aware of the threat assessment process. Furthermore, 20% of schools are not making students aware of this process. In our training, we discuss that targeted violence is preventable, and it starts with reporting concerning, aberrant or threatening behavior. Seeing that some schools are not making their school community aware of this, we can ensure we target this in our trainings and when discussing TA with our constituencies in various situations. In addition, while the majority of threat assessments conducted are on current students, the SSA data reveals that it is more than just students we need to be concerned with. This is why we focus on individuals as perpetrators of targeted violence rather than just students. We are able to break down specific groups, who are the subject of threat assessments. When we share this data in our training, it is eye opening for some to realize that current faculty (39.1%) make up a large number of the threat assessments performed outside of current students. We are also able to break down the types of threats as well as the classification/priority levels of threats reported. We have seen an increase in threats of harm to self (56.1 %) as the largest category of threat type being reported. Because we can see this trend growing, we have worked with the VDOE to align suicide risk assessment and threat assessment into a more cohesive process. VCSCS is also pushing out more mental health training as well. While these are just some examples of how we use the SSA data, you can review the supplied data graphs pulled from the SSA to get the full picture of what we collect and how it benefits our K-12 constituents across the Commonwealth.