

2026 EXECUTIVE FORUM

Leading the Way to Bring the School Safety Vision into Focus

Sponsored by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

In partnership with:

- Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)
- Virginia Office of the Attorney General (OAG)
- Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police (VACP)
- Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS)
- Virginia Sheriff's Association (VSA)
- Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA)
- Virginia Risk Sharing Association (VRSA)
- Virginia Drug Awareness Resistance Education (DARE) Association

DRAFT AGENDA as of 3/27/2026

10:00–10:10 **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

Brief introduction by VCSCS leadership; outline forum goals and context ahead of the main School Safety Training Forum.

10:10–10:30 **Data Snapshot: Top Issues Facing Virginia Schools and Communities**

1. **Public Safety & Threat Response**

Focus on rising violent threats, incidents, and online networks targeting Virginia's youth: discuss data on school threats and violence and best response partnerships.

Highlight: Virginia leaders making a difference.

2. **Mental Health & Student Well-Being**

Address increasing mental health challenges in students and staff; strategies for embedding supports in schools with a focus on integrating proactive mental health supports, trauma-informed practices, and crisis counseling.

Highlight: VDOE and VCSCS resources, plus successful division-level implementations.

3. **Strengthening Anti-Bullying/Cyberbullying Protections**

Examine Virginia's anti-bullying laws, cyberbullying prevention, and division protocol implementation.

Highlight: model prevention/intervention programs; VDOE model policies and DCJS curriculum.

10:30–11:10 Focusing on Prevention: Three Perspectives that Lead to the Same Focal-Point

Update from the Secret Service

Lina Alathari, Chief, National Threat Assessment Center

The Digital Threat Landscape From Safer Schools Together

Theresa Campbell, President and CEO, Safer Schools Together

Steven MacDonald, Executive Director, Safer Schools Together

Online Networks Targeting Our Youth From the Virginia Fusion Center

Bethany Sajan, Threat Analyst, Virginia Fusion Center, Virginia State Police

As threats to our schools and communities grow in scale and sophistication, leaders must guide with clarity, foresight, and strategic direction. This executive session provides an examination of key threat challenges (both IRL and online)—including online harassment, vulnerabilities within social media platforms, the rise in swatting events, and the increasing influence of AI-generated misinformation. Attendees will gain a future-oriented perspective on how these issues are affecting school safety across Virginia and the nation, and how leadership can proactively strengthen preparedness and response.

11:10–11:15 Quick Break

11:15–11:50 Panel Discussion: Cross-Agency Collaboration in Crisis

What does implementation of new legislation look like in our schools and communities? Law enforcement + education + board leaders discuss coordination, MOUs, and joint emergency planning and real-world collaboration challenges and triumphs.

- **Focus:** Best practices between school divisions and SROs/police, including MOUs and drills
- **Focus:** Peer-guided drafting of action plans for their schools or divisions in the three key areas.

- **Focus:** Implementation of new legislation.

11:50–12:00 **Closing Remarks & Next Steps**

Convene final thoughts, summarize commitments, preview next forum, and provide contact/connect resources.

12:00–1:00 **Lunch** (Provided)

1:00 – 4:30 **2026 School Safety Training Forum Kickoff**

Executive Forum attendees are invited to stay to hear more on these topics – and join over 1,000 other school and division leaders, mental health professionals and law enforcement partners at Virginia’s largest and longest running conference.