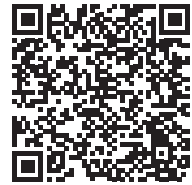


RESOURCES



"2024 Strengthening Connections" Summit Resources
www.dcs.virginia.gov/2024-strengthening-connections-power-prevention-summit-resource-page



DCJS Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety Mental Health and Trauma Support Resources
www.dcs.virginia.gov/virginia-center-school-and-campus-safety/mental-health-and-trauma-support



Handle With Care Virginia
<https://handlewithcareva.org>



DCJS Division of Public Safety and Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety main web page and staff listing
www.dcs.virginia.gov/virginia-center-school-and-campus-safety



Upcoming Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety Trainings
www.dcs.virginia.gov/virginia-center-school-and-campus-safety/training



EXHIBITORS

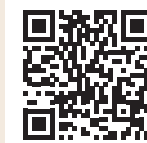


2024 Strengthening Connections: Power of Prevention

February 21-22, 2024



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



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Sponsored by the
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
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Virginia Department of Education



Wednesday, February 21

8:00 AM **Opening**

Presentation of Colors
Pledge of Allegiance
National Anthem
Welcome
 Jackson H. Miller, *Director, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services*
 Donna Michaelis, *Division Director, Public Safety Training and the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services*

8:30 AM **Power of Prevention Using Cultural Intelligence**

Lt. Wayland Cubit, *Director of Security, Oklahoma City Public Schools, Oklahoma*
 What better way to encourage connection and break down barriers to communication than by understanding each other better? In today's interconnected world, with diverse student bodies, cultural intelligence (CQ) has become a crucial aspect of promoting positive relationships between staff and students. Through real-life stories and experiences, this session is designed to equip participants with essential tools and strategies to enhance their ability to create a positive school climate and safe environment. The session will also explore ways to foster a sense of belonging among students from various backgrounds. Participants will leave inspired to create authentic positive relationships with students – and understand that together, we can build an additional layer of safety for students to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.

9:30 AM **Break**

9:40 AM **Power of Data**

How to Use School Climate Data
 Betsy Bell, *Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator, Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services*
 Nikki Wilcox, *School Safety Audit and Climate Survey Program Coordinator, Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services*
 Every public school division in Virginia participates in the Virginia School Survey of Climate and Working Conditions each year. What should you do with that data? Betsy and Nikki will help break down the survey and understand the best ways to use the outcome data to improve your school climate.

How to Use Student Behavior and Administrative Response (SBAR) Data
 Rebecca Kahila, *School Safety and Discipline Specialist, Office of Student Services, Virginia Department of Education*
 Doranda Scott, *School Climate and Discipline Specialist, Office of Student Services, Virginia Department of Education*
 SBAR provides another set of data that can be helpful in improving your school environment. Rebecca and Doranda will address frequently asked questions: What is SBAR? What can SBAR tell you about your school's climate? And how can SBAR inform school improvement?

10:30 AM **Helping Youth Build Healthy Relationships In Real Life (IRL) and Online**

Keith Cartwright, *Adverse Childhood Experiences Coordinator, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services*
 Relationships are vital to social and emotional development, unfortunately, too often our youth enter into friendships and romantic relationships that are harmful to their social and emotional well-being. Keith will bring his vast knowledge and experience to help us understand the signs of toxic relationships and how to help our youth do the same. He will discuss the factors that lead to these types of relationships and how to avoid them.

Wednesday, February 21 (Continued)

11:30 AM **Break**

11:40 AM **Utilizing Trauma-Informed Practices for Behavioral De-Escalation**

Jeffery Aaron, Ph.D., *Juvenile Justice and Behavioral Health Program Manager, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services*
 It is becoming increasingly important to utilize trauma-informed practices, especially when behaviors are escalated. This session will examine practical strategies for trauma-informed behavioral de-escalation. Proactive methods of trauma-informed practices for the whole school environment to reduce the behavioral escalations will also be discussed.

12:30 PM **Lunch (provided)**

1:15 PM **Bullying: Prevention and Effective Policies for the Whole School Community**

Kaylee Powell, *School Counselor and Threat Assessment Coordinator, West Point Public Schools*
 Bullying is by no means a new problem, but the methods and impact on the school environment have changed over the years. While we still experience what some would call "traditional" bullying and relational aggression in schools, an increase of cyberbullying that happens mainly outside of school brings these issues into the school. In this session we will discuss the difference between bullying and conflict and how to help young people understand the difference. We will talk about early prevention as well as effective intervention methods and the importance of postvention for both the target and the student engaged in the bullying. Real-world scenarios and policy development will be discussed.

2:15 PM **Break**

2:25 PM **Gaining Ground on Fentanyl in our Schools**

Rebecca Textor, *Behavioral Health Wellness Consultant, State Opioid Response/ Lock and Talk Virginia, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services*
 Our drug landscape is continually changing and tragic overdoses among our students in Virginia are on the rise. In addition to fentanyl, we now see effects from Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS). To help our youth, we must arm ourselves with the most current information we can gather and learn about actions we can take to keep youth from self-medicating or recreating with dangerous drugs, emerging addiction, and accidental or intentional overdose. This session will provide drug information and look at what we are doing as a state to address the problems associated with overdose. We will also demonstrate practical steps schools and parents can take for primary prevention and early intervention to keep our school communities safer.

3:25 PM **Break**

3:35 PM **Win the Day: Improving Your Whole School Climate**

Ryan Stein, *Principal, Greenwood Elementary School, Henrico County Public Schools*
 Bid farewell to traditional routines and kick-start every school day with passion and purpose! Revolutionize your school's atmosphere with an innovative approach that promises to transform your educational environment by nurturing significant connections, enhancing academic achievements, and fostering teacher retention. Join us for an unforgettable experience filled with dance, stepping, and drumming as we guide you through practical steps to cultivate a profound sense of belonging by leading with love. Get ready to embark on a journey that transcends the ordinary and sets the tone for a day filled with inspiration and unity!

4:45 PM **Day One Wrap Up and Conclusion**

Shellie Evers, *Supervisor, Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services*

Thursday, February 22

8:00 AM **Welcome Back and Announcements**

Shellie Evers, *Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety Supervisor, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services*
 Betsy Bell, *Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services*

8:15 AM **Know.Talk.Ask: A Hopeful Approach to Suicide Prevention**

Lori Wood, *Senior Director, Region Ten Community Services Board, Charlottesville*
 There has been a dramatic rise in suicidal ideation and attempts among adolescents and young adults. In this session, participants will learn how to recognize the risk factors and warning signs of suicide as well as how to help build protective factors and how to help those at risk recognize these factors in their own lives. Participants will learn how to talk with youth at risk, and gain an understanding of suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. There will be discussion of practical strategies to use with at-risk youth as well as ideas to use for strategic planning around suicide prevention in the community and school setting.

9:45 AM **Break**

10:00 AM **Keeping Kids and Adults in School**

Ramiro Rubalcaba, *Superintendent, Los Nietos School District, California*
 Throughout his career, Dr. Rubalcaba has been an active proponent of transformational practices. He has facilitated system-wide change in discipline practices, and implemented positive behavioral interventions and supports. These changes, coupled with his work in staff retention and school climate improvement, guarantee this session will provide immediate takeaways for improvement. Through case scenarios and promotion of positive behavioral and academic outcomes, school staff and law enforcement partners will leave with tools for connection and creative solutions for discovering – or rediscovering the joy in education.

12:00 PM **Wrap up and Conference Conclusion**

EVALUATION

We value your input on our conference.
 Please use this QR code to access the evaluation for this event.



https://vadcs.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Bk1mjSlxIs84nk