

Welcome to the 2009 Virginia School Safety Survey

This is a secure, web-based survey conducted by the Virginia Center for School Safety. Submission of this survey fulfills the Virginia School Safety Audit requirement. ([Virginia Code §22.1-279.8](#)).

While answering the following survey questions, please base your responses on the conditions in your school during the 2008 - 2009 school year.

Should you have any questions or experience technical problems with the survey, contact Donna Bowman at the Virginia Center for School Safety, 804-371-6506 or donna.bowman@dcjs.virginia.gov.

Please answer the following questions about your school as accurately as possible.

I. SCHOOL IDENTIFICATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1. Select your school division.

To ensure the appropriate school and school division are credited with this survey submission/compliance, please take a moment to access the school name/code look-up feature linked to the following two questions in order to identify your school's formal name and appropriate VA Department of Education (DOE)-assigned school code.

2. What is the *formal* name of your school?
3. What is your school's ID number?

If we have any questions about your survey responses, we would like to be able to contact you. Please provide us with your contact information:

4. What is your name?
5. What is your title?
6. What is your phone number?
7. What is your email address?
8. Which of the following best describes your school?

Elementary
Middle
High
Combined Grades
Primary
Pre-Kindergarten
Kindergarten
Alternative
Career/Technical/Vocational
Charter
Magnet
Governor's
Special Education
Correctional Education
Adult Education

School for the Deaf and Blind
Other

9. What grades are taught at your school?

Pre-Kindergarten
Kindergarten
1st grade
2nd grade
3rd grade
4th grade
5th grade
6th grade
7th grade
8th grade
9th grade
10th grade
11th grade
12th grade

10. What was your [fall membership enrollment number](#) on September 30, 2008?
11. Which setting best describes the area where your school is located?

Urban
Suburban
[Exurban](#)
Rural
Town
Combination / mix
Correctional
Other

II. ASSESSMENT, PLANNING, & COMMUNICATION

12. [Virginia Code § 22.1-279.3:1 \(Paragraph B\)](#) requires local law enforcement to notify schools of certain offenses committed by students under certain circumstances. Does your school routinely receive such notification on these offenses from local law enforcement?

Yes
No

[Virginia Code §22.1-279.8](#) describes school crisis and emergency management plans. It also states that "each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school crisis, emergency management, and medical response plan."

13. Did you have to activate any portion of your school's crisis management plan during the 2008 – 2009 school year due to an actual [emergency](#) or crisis? (Note: Do not include weather-related incidents)

Yes
No

(If 13 = yes)

13a. Why did you activate your crisis plan? (Note: Do not include weather-related incidents)

- Incidence of violence / crime occurring on school property
- Incidence of violence / crime occurring off school property
- Student or staff accident or death on or off campus
- Community incident that impacted school
- Incident at another school which impacted your school
- Hazardous chemical incident
- Bomb threat
- Power outage / utility malfunction
- Fire
- Other

14. Does your school have an [electronic notification system](#) for notifying parents/guardians of an [emergency](#) at your school?

- Yes
- No

(If 14 = yes)

14a. (If yes) Under what [emergency](#) circumstances did you activate your school's [electronic notification system](#)? (Note: Do not include weather or schedule changes)

- Incidence of violence /crime occurring on school property
- Incidence of violence /crime occurring off school property
- Student or staff accident or death on or off campus
- Community incident that impacted school
- Incident at another school which impacted your school
- Update about ongoing critical incident or emergency situation
- Hazardous material incident
- Power outage / utility malfunction
- Suspicious person / intruder
- Other
- We did not activate our ENS for an emergency

15. Did your school distribute an anonymous questionnaire to students during the 2008 – 2009 school year to assess student school safety concerns?

- Yes
- No

(If 15 = yes)

15a. Based on questionnaire responses, what three issues concerned students most?
(Select three)

- [Bullying](#) (i.e., teasing)
- Gang activity
- Lack of adult supervision
- Substance abuse issues within school
- Theft of personal property
- Weapons on campus
- Other

16. Does your school use a [formal threat assessment](#) process to respond to student threats of violence?

Yes
No, we have no formal process

(If 16 = yes)

16a. For your formal threat assessment process, do you follow the [guidelines developed by the University of Virginia \(UVA\)](#)?

Yes
No

(If 16 = yes)

16b. Were any threats assessed using this process during the 2008 – 2009 school year?

Yes
No

(If 16b = yes)

16b-1. Were any of these threats determined to be viable or substantive?

Yes
No

III. SCHOOL SECURITY/SURVEILLANCE

The questions in this section of the survey ask about security practices at your school. Because the public release of such information might compromise safety and security plans, [Virginia Codes §2.2-3705.2](#) and [§22.1-279.8](#) allow such information to be protected from release under the [Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\)](#).

Understand that DCJS Virginia Center for School Safety will report the information in this section in an aggregated format for all schools, but it will not release specific information from identified schools.

17. What method(s) does your school use to monitor school buses and/or safety on school buses?

GPS Tracking System
Randomly patrolled by school faculty/staff
Randomly patrolled by security personnel (including SROs, SSOs, or private security)
Security camera (monitored live in real time)
Security camera (taped, not monitored in real time)
Bus aide / monitor
Other
We do not monitor school buses

18. Is the main entrance to your school building/campus secured by a [controlled access system](#) during school hours?

Yes
No

19. Other than the main entrance, are all exterior entrances to your school building/campus locked during school hours?

Yes
No

20. Can all classrooms in your school be locked from both the inside and outside of the classroom?

Yes
No

21. Is someone stationed at the front entrance of your school at all times during school hours to ensure that visitors report to the main office for visitor check-in?

Yes
No

22. In reference to visitor check-in, which of the following groups of visitors are required to show photo ID?

Parents/guardians
Friends/relatives of students or staff
Volunteers
Commercial visitors (e.g., delivery persons, trade workers such as plumbers)

23. When checking in visitors, including parents/guardians, does office staff check names against the [sex offender registry](#) bulletins?

Yes
No

24. Which of the following statements accurately describes your school's use of background checks on *all* volunteers who work with students at your school (including both parent/guardian and non-parent/guardian)?

Background checks are conducted on all volunteers
Background checks are NOT conducted on all volunteers
Don't know because background checks are conducted by division office
We don't have volunteers who work with students

(If 24 = "Background checks are conducted on all volunteers")

- 24a. Which of the following background checks do you conduct on all volunteers who work with students at your school (including both parent/guardian and non-parent/guardian)?

Criminal background check
[Sex offender registry](#)
Other

25. Does your school have safety/security personnel present at your school *at all times* during the regular school day?

Yes
No

(If 25 = yes)

- 25a. What type(s) of safety/security personnel are present at your school *at all times* during the regular school day?

[School Resource Officers \(SROs\)](#)
[School Security Officers \(SSOs\)](#)

Other

(If 25a = SRO)

25a-1. Please give us the name and email of your SRO(s).

The next two questions ask about who employs your school's SRO and who funds your school's SRO. "Employ" means which agency ultimately supervises your school's SRO, and "fund" means from which agency does the funding for the SRO position originate?

(If 25a = SRO)

25a-2. Who employs your SRO(s)?

- City Police
- County Police
- County Sheriff's office
- Combination of the above
- Don't know

(If 25a = SRO)

25a-3. How are your SRO(s) funded?

- Through the school division
- Through a law enforcement agency
- Combination of the above
- Other
- Don't know

Virginia Code definition: [§18.2-46.1](#) Criminal street gang means "any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, (i) which has as one of its primary objectives or activities the commission of one or more criminal activities, (ii) which has an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol, and (iii) whose members individually or collectively have engaged in the commission of, attempt to commit, conspiracy to commit, or solicitation of two or more predicate criminal acts, at least one of which is an act of violence, provided such acts were not part of a common act or transaction."

26. Using the definition above, did your school have any gang-related problems or incidents during the 2008 – 2009 school year?

- Yes
- No

27. Did the number of gang-related problems or incidents increase, decrease, or stay about the same when compared with the previous school year?

- Increased
- Decreased
- Stayed about the same