2019 VACO Conference
Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

DCJS
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
DCJS Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

Start with the Facts:

_School is One of the Safest Places for an American Child_
While homicide is among the leading causes of death for young people, school is a relative haven compared with the home or the neighborhood. According to the most recent federal data, between 1992 and 2015, less than 3 percent of homicides of children 5 to 18 years old occurred at school, and less than 1 percent of suicides.

Source: Melissa Sickmund, director of the National Center for Juvenile Justice

Building Blocks for Successful Threat Assessment Programs
Successful Threat Assessment Programs

1. Legislation

2. Relationships

3. Strong school-law enforcement partnership

4. Data Collection

5. Positive School Climate
Building Block #1

Legislation

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
Legislation

• Center is responsible for:
  – K-12
  – Providing **training** for all school personnel
  – Serving as a **resource and referral center** and providing **technical assistance** for Virginia school divisions
  – Facilitating the annual **school safety audit** pursuant to *Virginia Code § 22.1-279.8*
  – Maintaining and **disseminating information** to local school divisions on effective school safety initiatives in Virginia and across the nation
  – Encouraging development of **partnerships** to promote school safety in Virginia
Legislation

- 2004 – School Safety Audits
- 2004, 2006 – School and Campus Security Officer Training and Certification
- 2008 – Higher Education Threat Assessment Teams
- 2013 – School and Campus Safety Task Force

Plethora of other changes to include:
- K-12 Threat Assessment Teams
- Critical Incident Response Curriculum
- Emergency Managers
- Model Policies and Procedures
- Lockdown Drills
Legislation

2018–Oh my!! The year of School Safety

• House Select Committee on School Safety
  – 58 recommendations

• Governor’s Workgroup of Student Safety
  – 20 recommendations

• Federal Commission on School Safety
  – 95 recommendations
Legislation

• **First responders** and others from specific groups must be included in crisis planning (HB1737)

• Develop a **mandatory model memorandum of understanding** (HB1733 and SB1214)

• Mandates **SRO certification** and trainings standards (July 2020)
Legislation

• Mandates at least one school administrator must complete school safety training from the Center (HB2609/SB1130)

• Design, develop, and implement an electronic threat assessment case management tool (HB1734/SB1213)

• Development of an information sharing guide between schools and law enforcement (SB1591)
Building Block #2

Relationships

DCJS
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

- 132 public school superintendents
- 2,200 school administrators
- 4,500 assistant school administrators
- 120,000 teachers and school staff
- 69 colleges and universities
- 42 campus law enforcement agencies

- 367 law enforcement agencies
- 23,000 law enforcement officers
- 780 school resource officers
- 1,200 school security officers
- 600 campus security officers
Relationships

• **Cabinet level secretariats** – Office of the Secretary of Education, Public Safety, and Health and Human Services

• **Federal partners:** USDOE/REMS, DHS, FEMA

• **Other states:** Maryland, Texas, Montana, Kentucky….

• **Other state agencies** – Departments of Education, Behavioral Health (mental health services), Office of the Attorney General, state police, etc.

• **Front line stakeholders** – law enforcement, school divisions, community service boards, counselor associations, educational associations
Building Block #3

Strong school - law enforcement partnership
Legislation

• SROs in Virginia schools in mid 1980s

• DCJS began funding SROS through Byrne funding in mid 1990s and offering SRO training

• Provide services to K-12 public schools
Legislation

• 1956 Virginia Schools
• SROs in 86% of all middle and high schools
• SROs in 34% of all elementary schools
• Prior to legislation for SRO certification, Center trained approximately 85% of all SROs.
Legislation

• SROs are a vital link between the schools and community and can provide valuable resources
• LEOs/SROs are intimately familiar with the ECO and CPS processes
• LEOs/SROs are experienced in dealing with youth in crisis and can be a stabilizing influence
MOU and Partnership Guide

Virginia School-Law Enforcement Partnership Model Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

May 2017

Virginia School-Law Enforcement Partnership Guide

May 2017
Building Block #4

Data Collection

Measure to Manage
Data Collection

Annual Safety Audit Process
Data Collection

Center is mandated to:

- collect, analyze, and disseminate various Virginia school safety data, (§ 22.1-279.8),
- collect quantitative data from threat assessment teams (§ 22.1-79.4. E)
Data Collection

• Virginia School Safety Survey (completed online annually)

• Division Level Survey

• Virginia School Crisis Management Plan Review and Certification (annually by August 31)

• Virginia Secondary School Climate Survey

• School Safety Inspection Checklist Certification
Threat Assessment Data

Number of threats (2018-2019)

• 1,539 schools (78%) reported conducting one or more threat assessments for a total of 16,573 threat assessments conducted in 2018-2019
# Number of Threat Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School year</th>
<th>Number of schools</th>
<th>Number of schools reported 1 or &gt; TA</th>
<th>Percent of schools reported 1 or &gt; TA</th>
<th>Number of TAs reported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004 – 05</td>
<td>1409*</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>42.4%</td>
<td>3500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 – 06</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
<td>3336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 – 07</td>
<td>1974*</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
<td>2926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 – 08</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>754</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>2438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 – 09 through 12 – 13 question was not asked</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 – 14</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>1157</td>
<td>58.7%</td>
<td>5713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 – 15</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>1068</td>
<td>54.5%</td>
<td>5622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 – 16</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>1234</td>
<td>62.9%</td>
<td>7298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 – 17</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>1285</td>
<td>65.7%</td>
<td>9238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 – 18</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>1563</td>
<td>79.9%</td>
<td>14869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 – 19</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>1539</td>
<td>78.4%</td>
<td>16573</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Subject of Threat Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current student</td>
<td>7132</td>
<td>9087</td>
<td>14568</td>
<td>16243 (98%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other student</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>79 (0.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former student</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>31 (0.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current faculty</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>113 (0.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former faculty</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11 (0.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>71 (0.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone else</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25 (0.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>7300</strong></td>
<td><strong>9238</strong></td>
<td><strong>14869</strong></td>
<td><strong>16573</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Type of threat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Against self</td>
<td>42.4%</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
<td>55.7%</td>
<td>60.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Against others</td>
<td>52.8%</td>
<td>45.2%</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Against both</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Threat Data

“all threats” through “HLT events that occurred”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of all TAs conducted</td>
<td>7298</td>
<td>9238</td>
<td>14890</td>
<td>16545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># TAs deemed HLTs</td>
<td>657</td>
<td>928</td>
<td>1472</td>
<td>1169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% all TAs that were HLTs</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># HLTs carried out</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of HLTs carried out</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of all TAs that were HLTs carried out</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2017-2018 Threat Assessment Data

• In all 38 HLT cases, students were the primary initiator of the event.
  – 21 cases were self harm/attempted suicide
  – 17 cases were harm/attempted harm toward others

• Of these, 68% (26 students) were able to continue attending the school at some time after the event.
Building Block #5

Positive School Climate
Positive School Climate

**VIRGINIA CARES FOR SCHOOLS & CAMPUSES**

C.A.R.E.S. involves communities working together to build:

- Caring & Connection
- Awareness
- Recognition
- Engagement
- Support
Positive School Climate

*Climate Survey – Student Results*

- 79% reported that they feel safe in their school
- 78% reported students are treated fairly regardless of their race or ethnicity
- 89% reported teachers care about all students
- 94% reported that there was at least one teacher at their school who really wants them to do well
- 75% said there was an adult at school they could talk with if they had a personal problem
- 77% are proud to be a student at their school and feel like they belong
Positive School Climate

Climate Survey – Staff Results

– 69% of staff reported that they feel physically safe at their school **BUT**
– **Only** 47% feel that there is adequate safety and security at their school
– Only 9% of staff agreed that bullying is a problem at their school
– 63% reported that their students treat them with respect
– 91% of staff agreed that the SRO makes a positive contribution to the school and makes them feel safer at school
### Climate Survey Summary

#### A Virginia High School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Student Support Scale</strong></th>
<th><strong>School</strong></th>
<th><strong>Region</strong></th>
<th><strong>State</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Most teachers and other adults at this school...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care about all students.</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Want all students to do well.</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listen to what students have to say.</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treat students with respect.</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How much do you agree or disagree with these statements?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are adults at this school I could talk with if I had a personal problem.</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If I tell a teacher that someone is bullying me, the teacher will do something to help.</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am comfortable asking my teachers for help with my school work.</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is at least one teacher or other adult at this school who really wants me to do well.</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average for 8 items above</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional items not included in overall scale, but relevant to safety.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If another student talked about killing someone, I would tell one of the teachers or staff at school.</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If another student brought a gun to school, I would tell one of the teachers or staff at school.</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel safe in my school.</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Resources

Mandated
Resources

• Threat Assessment Model Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines.pdf
  Threat Assessment Model Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines.docx
• School Threat Assessment Training: Participant Manual
• Fillable Threat Assessment Form (Word)
• K12 Threat Assessment: A Prevention Overview
• Fillable Threat Assessment Form (2016)
• K12 Threat Assessment Updates (Summer 2016)
• K12 Threat Assessment Video
• Request for Service Technical Assistance for Threat Assessment and Management Teams
• Technical Assistance for Threat Assessment and Management Teams for Virginia Schools and Institutions of Higher Education
Trainings and Conferences

- School Safety
- Campus Safety
- Public Safety
- Mixed Audience
Trainings and Conferences

Conferences
• Annual School Safety Training Forum
• Campus Safety and Violence Prevention Forum
• The Briefings: A National School Safety Symposium
• Strengthening Connections: School Climate Conference
• Impact of Trauma on Law Enforcement Officers Conference
• Violent Crime Reduction Conference
• Threat Assessment Conference
Future Plans

• Community Behavioral Threat Assessment Team Trainings

• Development of a statewide Threat Assessment Case Management Tool

• Cadre of threat assessment trainers for sustainability
Future Plans

• Development of online learning modules

• Publication of “white papers” / FAQs for sensitive issues and information sharing

• More research on data collected and its impact on schools
DCJS Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

*We are here to help!*

[www.dcjs.virginia.gov](http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov)

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