



**Virginia Department of  
Criminal Justice Services  
and Virginia Center for School Safety**

*Overview of Governor's  
Taskforce, Recent  
Legislation:  
Implications for Schools  
and Available Resources*

***For VDEM Coordinators Briefings:  
October 1, 8, 22, 2013***



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# K-12 Public Education



School  
Safety  
in  
Virginia



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# School Safety Relative to Other Crime

*Of the homicides reported in Virginia from CY 2005 through 2011:*

- Only three-tenths of one percent of homicide incidents occurred at a school or college.
- Over 50% of homicide incidents occurred in the home.
- One quarter of homicide incidents occurred on a roadway.



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# School Related Laws and Requirements

The **Virginia Center for School Safety** is responsible for:

- Providing **training** for stakeholders
- Serving as a **resource and referral center** and **providing technical assistance** for Virginia school divisions
- Facilitating the annual **school safety audit** pursuant to [§ 22.1-279.8](#)
- Encouraging development of **partnerships** to promote school safety in Virginia;

§ 9.1-184

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Center for  
School  
Safety*

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# School Safety Audits and Crisis and Emergency Response Plans

- **School Safety Audits:**
  - School safety audits conducted online annually
  - The Virginia Center for School Safety facilitates process and aids in completion
  - Results published annually
- **School Crisis and Emergency Plans:**
  - States what plans must include
  - School divisions must certify plans annually

§ 22.1-279.8.  
*School safety audits and school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans required.*



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# Lockdown Drills

*Prior to July 1, 2013...*

*...at least one simulated lock-down and crisis emergency evacuation activity should be conducted early in the school year.*

**94% of schools\* reported they have practiced their lockdown drill at least once per year**

8VAC20-131-260.  
School facilities and safety



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# Access Control Systems and Other Security Strategies

- **53% of all schools** reported that they had a **controlled access system** in place.
- 59% of all elementary schools have a controlled access system in place.
- 51% of all middle schools have a controlled access system in place.
- 37% of all high schools have a controlled access system in place.



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# Access Control Systems and Other Security Strategies

- **73% of all schools** report that **all exterior entrances are locked** during school hours.
- 78% of all elementary schools report that all exterior entrances are locked during school hours.
- 74% of all middle schools report that all exterior entrances are locked during school hours.



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# Access Control Systems and Other Security Strategies

- 61% of all high schools report that all exterior entrances are locked during school hours.
- **46% of all schools** reported that **someone is stationed at the front entrance** of the school at all times during school hours to ensure that visitors report to the main office for visitor check-in.



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# Access Control Systems and Other Security Strategies

- **43% of all elementary schools** reported that **someone is stationed at the front entrance.**
- **46% of all middle schools** reported that **someone is stationed at the front entrance.**
- **56% of all high schools** reported that **someone is stationed at the front entrance.**



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# Access Control Systems and Other Security Strategies

- **73% of all schools** report that **all exterior entrances are locked** during school hours.
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# Governor's Taskforce on School and Campus Safety



The screenshot shows the Virginia.gov website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "Virginia.gov", "Online Services | Commonwealth Sites | Help", and a search box labeled "Search Virginia.gov" with a "GO" button. Below the navigation bar is a banner for Governor Bob McDonnell with the text "A COMMONWEALTH OF OPPORTUNITY." and a "Search" button. The main content area features a sidebar on the left with links to "News", "Media Library", "About the Governor", "Governor's Policy Office", "Government Reform and Restructuring", "Executive Orders", "Executive Directives", "Staff Listing", "Governor's Cabinet", "Community Relations", and "Our Commonwealth". The main content area displays "Executive Order No. 56 (2012)" and "Governor's Taskforce on School and Campus Safety". Below this, there is a "view PDF" link and a section titled "Importance of the Initiative". The text in this section discusses the aftermath of the Newtown, Connecticut, tragedy and the 2007 shootings at Virginia Tech, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive review of school safety at all levels. A date stamp "May 14" and a small image of Governor McDonnell are also visible.

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Governor Bob McDonnell  
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Home > Policy Office > Executive Orders > Executive Order No. 56

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May 14

Governor McDonnell  
Appears on "Ask the Governor" on AM 730 -  
WVAZ  
9:03 AM

Executive Order No. 56 (2012)  
Governor's Taskforce on School and Campus Safety

view PDF

**Importance of the Initiative**

In the aftermath of the heartbreaking tragedy that devastated Newtown, Connecticut, and the nation, Virginians stand united behind the families and friends of those affected by the loss of so many innocent lives. Indeed, the similarities between this horrific attack and the tragic 2007 shootings at Virginia Tech have left many in the Commonwealth searching for understanding, solutions, and ideas on how to prevent such violence in our country.

The impact of this recent event is not confined to Connecticut. Nor is the grief and outrage confined to Colorado, Arizona, Virginia, or to any other state that shares the burden of grieving for innocent victims lost at the hands of a depraved gunman or group that inexplicably chooses to take human lives en masse in a school, on a campus, or in a public forum.

Public safety is a primary responsibility of government - whether it is at the federal, state, or local level. In the aftermath of the shocking and senseless shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School, I have asked all local and state leaders that play a role in school or campus safety to review the procedures, plans, policies, and resources dedicated to the safety of students, faculty, and the public. We owe it to our children and young people to provide safe and secure learning environments, and the recent tragedy highlights the timeliness of conducting another comprehensive review. Accordingly, this past Monday, I announced the formation of a plan to review school safety at all levels, and to identify gaps and critical resource needs at the state, local, school division, and college/university levels to ensure that we are doing everything humanly possible to keep our children, young people, educators, and administrators safe.

*and Resulting General Assembly Legislation*



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# Governor's Taskforce on School and Campus Safety

## 3 Workgroups:

- Public Safety Work Group
- Education Work Group
- Mental Health Workgroup



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# Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force

- ***SB1376: Immunity From Civil Liability*** – expands current Virginia law by extending immunity to any person who reports, with good faith, information that an individual poses credible danger of serious bodily injury or death to one or more students, school personnel, or others on school property.

§ [8.01-47](#).

Immunity of  
*persons*  
investigating  
or reporting  
certain  
incidents *at*  
*schools*



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# Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force

- **HB1871:** Defines "bullying" in the *Code of Virginia* and requires each school board to include a prohibition against bullying in its **code of student conduct policies and procedures.**
  - *Bullying" means any aggressive and unwanted behavior that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim; involves a real or perceived power imbalance between the aggressor or aggressors and victim; and is repeated over time or causes severe emotional trauma. "Bullying" includes cyber bullying. "Bullying" does not include ordinary teasing, horseplay, argument, or peer conflict.*

§ [22.1-276.01](#)  
Definitions.

§ [22.1-279.6](#).  
Board of  
Education  
guidelines and  
model policies  
for codes of  
student  
conduct

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# Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force, *HB1871 cont'd...*

- A *statewide survey* of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their teachers was conducted to assess school climate and safety issues. Reports are available through principals and VCSS.
- *Model Policy* to be provided by the Department of Education.
- One day *conference* with VCSS, VDOE, and VDH entitled “*Bullying and Sexual Harassment: Managing Each Effectively in Schools*” planned again for this year.
- *School and Campus Safety Training Forum* held annually in Hampton, VA, approximately 750 participants, sessions on bullying.

§ [22.1-291.4](#).  
*Bullying prohibited*



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# Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force

- **HB2343:** Creates the *"Public School Security Equipment Grant Act"*
- *Purpose of grant payments to eligible school divisions of the Commonwealth to be used exclusively for purchasing security equipment for schools, including any related installation, which is designed to improve and help ensure the safety of students attending public schools in Virginia.*
- *The amount of grants shall not exceed \$100,000 each*
- *25% match*
- **Administered through DOE**

*§ 1. That this act shall be known and may be cited as the "Public School Security Equipment Grant Act of 2013."*



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# Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force Recommendations

**HB2344: Threat Assessment Teams.** Requires each School Board to:

- Establish threat assessment teams for each school; and
- Collect and report quantitative data to the DCJS .

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*The school safety audit that schools complete online annually in August through the Department of Criminal Justice Services will include questions related to threat assessment.*

§ [22.1-79.4](#).

*Threat assessment teams and oversight committees.*

§ 9.1-184.

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# Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force, *HB2344 cont'd...*

- VCSS will develop *model policy for the establishment of threat assessment teams*, including procedures for the assessment of and intervention with students whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of school staff or students.
- ***Training and/or guidance will be provided at:***
  - *Six, two day "School Administrators and Advanced School Resource Officer Courses: Enhancing Safety through Legislation and Resources" in Oct/Nov 2013*
  - *Several one day threat assessment trainings across the state between August and October 2013 , and into 2014.*

§ [22.1-79.4](#).

*Threat assessment teams and oversight committees.*

§ 9.1-184.

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# Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force Recommendations

## HB2347: Juvenile Information Sharing

- Facilitates the sharing of juvenile law-enforcement records by the principal of the school to threat assessment teams.

***Information related to Juvenile information Sharing and Legal Issues in Schools*** will be included in the six, two day "School Administrators and Advanced School Resource Officer Courses: Enhancing Safety through Legislation and Resources" in October/November, 2013.

§ [16.1-301](#).  
Confidentiality of juvenile law-enforcement records; disclosures to school principal



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# Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force

## *Public Safety Study*

- The Public Safety Workgroup **and the Education Workgroup** of the Governor's School and Campus Safety Taskforce will **evaluate and assess the feasibility of armed security positions** within the school building weighing the pros and cons and assessing the risks and liability concerns. *Report provided by June 30, 2013.*



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# Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force

## Budget Amendment

- ***Restores § 9.1-110 Funding For SRO Incentive Grant Fund*** -- Recommend appropriation of funds to replenish the School Resource Officer Incentive Grant Fund.
- FY 13-14
- **\$1,291,153.00**



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# Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force, *SRO Grant cont'd...*

- Subject to the authority of the Board to provide for its disbursement, the Fund shall be disbursed to award matching grants to local law-enforcement agencies and local school boards that have established a collaborative agreement to employ uniformed school resource officers, as defined in § [9.1-101](#), in **middle and high schools** within the relevant school division.
- Budget language adds the **school security officers and SROs in elementary schools**

§ 9.1-110.  
School  
Resource  
Officer Grants  
Program and  
Fund.

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# Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force, *SRO Grant, cont'd...*

- Grant period ended May 3, 2013
- Awards announced on June 13, 2013
- Grant funds available from July 1, 2013- June 30, 2014 with a four year grant cycle as funds are available.
- 42 SRO grants approved by the CJS Board for the salaries and benefits for school resource officers in elementary, middle and high schools around the state.

§ 9.1-110.  
School  
Resource  
Officer  
Grants  
Program and  
Fund.



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# Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force

**Mental Health First Aid** – Five-day instructor training and certification :

- How to recognize and respond to mental or emotional distress
- Some trained instructors will be clinicians who also act as community resource staff for consultations and interventions.
- Subsequent 12 hour trainings will target peers, **school personnel**, clergy, health professionals, community agency personnel, military and veteran service organizations and advocates, and other first responders and “gatekeepers” who have extensive public contact.



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# Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force, *Mental Health First Aid*

## Budget Amendment

- \$600,000.00 awarded to DBHDS to implement Mental Health First Aid
- Discussions to hold train the trainers for the VCSS
- VCSS will train school personnel in 8 hour certification course



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# Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force Recommendations

## HB2345: Critical Incident Response Model Curriculum

- Directs the Virginia Departments of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), Education (DOE), Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), and State Police (VSP) to develop a model **Critical Incident Response training program for school personnel** and those providing services to schools.

§ 9.1-184.  
Virginia Center  
for School  
Safety created;  
duties



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# Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force, *HB2345 cont'd...*

- DCJS' Virginia Center for School Safety *will provide model Critical Incident Response training online* for school personnel..
- *The training will be shown at the six, two day School Administrator and Advanced School Resource Officer Course: Enhancing School Safety through New Legislation and Resources across the state in October/November, 2013.*
- *Available on the VCSS website.*

§ 9.1-184.

Virginia Center for School Safety created; duties



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# Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force

- The following free resources will also be available by September 2013 to assist with safety and emergency planning:
  - *Juvenile Law Handbook*
  - *Street Drug Identification Guide*
  - *School and Campus Safety Best Practices*
  - *School Safety Audit Report*
  - *Results of the Public Safety Study on Armed Persons in Schools*
  - *School Administrator's Guide for Conducting Drills*



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# Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force

**HB2346: Lockdown Drills.** Requires school divisions to:

- Designate an emergency manager
- Conduct two lockdown drills per school (once in September once in January)
- Utilize the School Safety Inspection Checklists provided by DCJS/VCSS
- Establish a school safety audit committee
- Share crisis management plans with first responders
- Share checklists with law enforcement upon request

§ [22.1-137.2](#).

*Lock-down drills.*

§ [22.1-279.8](#).

School safety audits and school crisis, management, and medical emergency response plans



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# Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force, HB2346 cont'd...

- The *school safety audit survey* will include questions related to designated emergency manager, lockdown drills, walk throughs and sharing of plans.
- *Training will be provided* at the six, two day “**School Administrator and Advanced School Resource Officer Course: Enhancing School Safety through New Legislation and Resources**” in October/November, 2013.
- The *Virginia Educator's Guide to Conducting Emergency Drills* and *School Safety Inspection Checklist* will be provided by the Virginia Center for School Safety on or about August 1, 2013. **By Code this will be the checklist schools are required to use.**

§ [22.1-137.2](#).

Lock-down drills.

§ [22.1-279.8](#).

School safety audits and school crisis, management, and medical emergency response plans



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# Legislation: “To Do List” FOR SCHOOLS and SROs

- Include a prohibition against bullying, offer training
- Designate an Emergency Manager
- Establish threat assessment team(s)
- Track activation of threat assessment team(s)
- Conduct two lockdown drills per school year
- Use DCJS provided School Safety Inspection Checklist
- Share emergency plans with first responders
- Share checklists with law enforcement upon request

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# Support Summary - RESOURCES

- DCJS/VCSS Web Site
- Model Bullying Policy (from DOE)
- School Safety Inspection Checklist
- Model Policies and Protocols for Threat Assessment
- SRO Program Guide
- Juvenile Law Handbook for School Administrators
- Administrator's Guide to Conducting Drills
- Changes to School Safety Survey



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# Support Summary - TRAININGS

- Annual School and Campus Safety Training Forum, August 2014, Hampton, VA
- **School Administrator and Advanced School Resource Officer Forums:** *Enhancing School Safety through New Legislation and Resources, Multiple dates and locations October/November*
- **Basic and Advanced Threat Assessment Workshops,** *Multiple dates and locations 2013-2015*
- **“Effectively Creating a K-12 Threat Management System”** --Legal Implications of Threat Assessment Teams



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# Support Summary - TRAININGS

- CPTED for Schools
- Mental Health First Aid
- Adult Sexual Misconduct in Schools
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
- Interview and Interrogation Skills and Emotional Cognitive Interviewing
- Multi-hazard Emergency Planning for Schools (in partnership with VDEM and VDOE)



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# Support Summary - TRAININGS

- **Human Trafficking and Gangs, An Overview**
- **Basic and Advanced Gang Investigation Training**
- **Autism Awareness** for Law Enforcement Officers
- **Critical Incident Response** Video and Manual
- **Additional Trainings and Support** *Available Upon Request*



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**DBHDS**  
Virginia Department of  
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## VIRGINIA CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY

### Critical Incident Response for School Faculty and Staff



**DBHDS**  
Virginia Department of  
Behavioral Health and  
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# Critical Incident Response: SELF-TEST

1. An emergency or critical incident can occur at what types of locations?
2. The three main response actions in an emergency or critical incident include?
3. In an extreme situation when an Active Shooter is present, additional actions may be necessary. These actions are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_?
4. Whenever possible, staff and students are urged to follow practiced lockdown/hide procedures. However, as a last resort, or in life threatening circumstances \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ may be necessary.
5. It is important to practice plans and take drills seriously. True or False?
6. It is important that schools have emergency plans that address all types of emergencies that can occur including man-made, weather related, and health related. This type of planning is called?
7. An Active Shooter event is likely. True or False?
8. Active Shooter incidents are impossible to prevent because usually people just snap. True or False?
9. When law enforcement officers arrive on scene you should run to them. True or False?
10. If you are in lockdown and think it is safe to come out, you should do so. True or False?



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*Improving and promoting public safety in the Commonwealth*

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**Report on the Findings of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services CONSTITUENT SURVEY**

In the spring of 2011, DCJS asked its constituents to participate in a short survey to find out what the agency is doing well and where it may need to improve.

[Click here to read the full report.](#)

### ONLINE SERVICES

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### What's New Grant Opportunities

- [The Department of Criminal Justice Services announces implementation of the Auxiliary Police Officer Policy](#) + 05/07/2013
- [Eligibility and Non-Supplanting certifications for localities receiving "599" funds must be completed and returned to DCJS by June 30.](#) 05/02/2013
- [DCJS to enhance Crime Prevention Services](#) 04/30/2013
- [Help build the Virginia Public Safety Memorial—buy a target for \\$1.50 May 1-31 at Colonial Shooting Academy.](#) + 04/25/2013
- [Registration now open for the June 17, 2013 Bullying and Sexual Harassment Summit in Charlottesville, VA](#) 04/08/2013

### CALENDAR

Virg  
Crim



**Thank  
you!**



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