



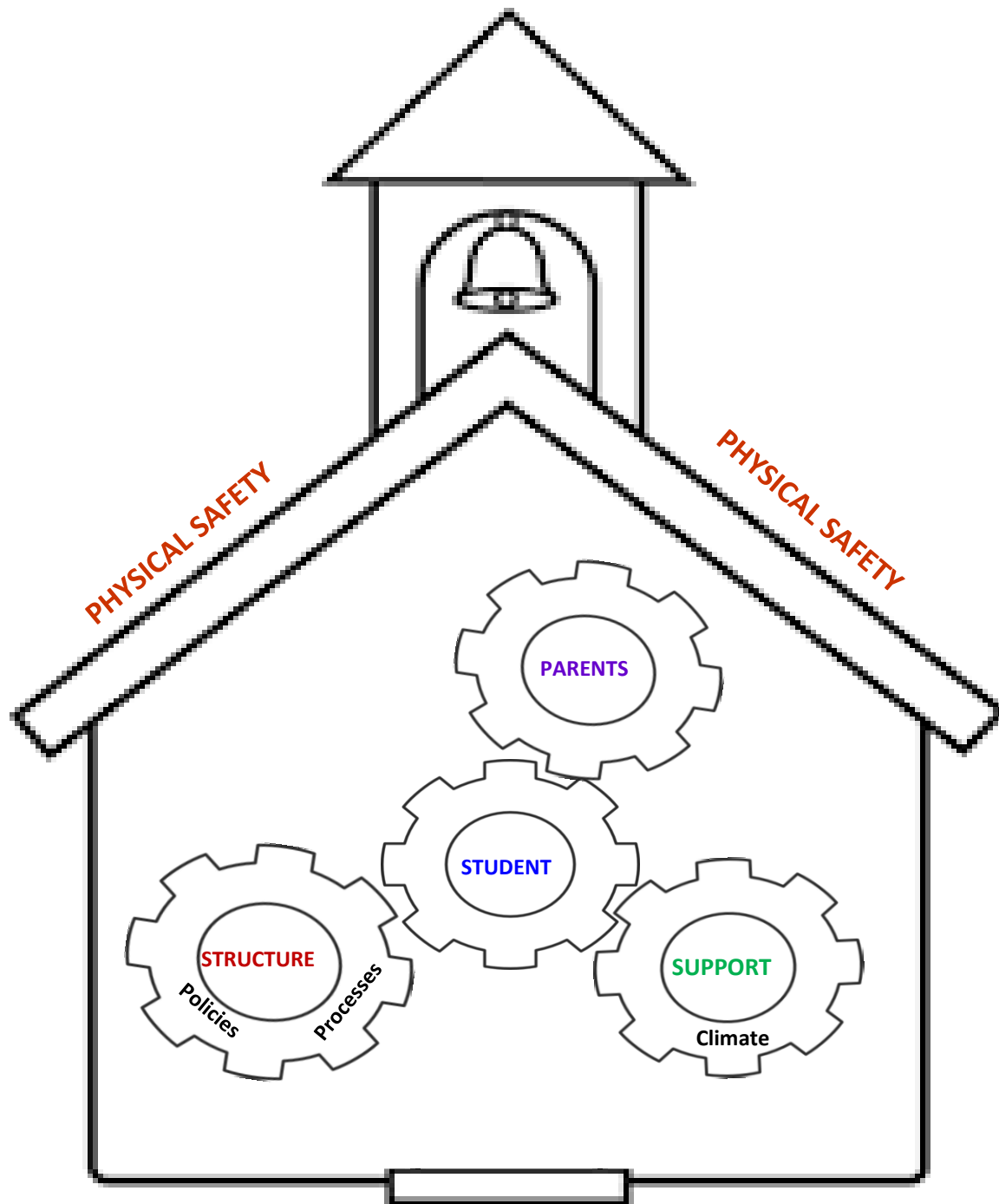
Department of Criminal Justice Services

Virginia Center for School & Campus Safety

*Senate Presentation
November 16, 2018*



Virginia Department of
Criminal Justice Services
www.dcjs.virginia.gov



Virginia Department of
Criminal Justice Services
www.dcjs.virginia.gov



Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

Fact:

School is one of the safest places for an American child



Virginia Department of
Criminal Justice Services

www.dcjs.virginia.gov



Legislation

1999 – Columbine

2000

- Established the Virginia Center for School Safety (Va. Code § 9.1-184).
- Placed at DCJS. Provide services to K-12 public schools.

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 Va. 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.



Virginia Department of
Criminal Justice Services
www.dcjs.virginia.gov



Legislation

2004

School security officer training and certification

2005

School safety audits

2006

Campus security officer training and certification

2007 – Virginia Tech

2008

- Mandated threat assessment teams for higher education



Legislation

2012 – December – Sandy Hook

2013 – School and Campus Safety Task Force

- Plethora of other changes to include:
 - Renamed the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety.
 - K-12 Threat Assessment teams.
 - Critical Incident Response Curriculum.
 - Emergency Managers.
 - Model Policies and Procedures.
 - Lockdown drills.





Legislation

2017

Armed school security officers

- Law-enforcement officer within last 10 years
- Authority to carry a firearm by board
- Retired or resigned in good standing
- Meet firearms training and qualifications
- Proof of completion of a training course that includes training in active shooter emergency response, emergency evacuation procedure, and threat assessment
- Receive input from chief law enforcement



Virginia Department of
Criminal Justice Services

www.dcjs.virginia.gov



School Resource Officers & School Security Officers in Virginia



Virginia Department of
Criminal Justice Services
www.dcjs.virginia.gov



Legislation

Virginia SRO Program

- SRO's in Virginia schools in mid 1980s.
- DCJS began funding SROS through Byrne funding in mid 1990's and offering SRO training.
- Provide services to K-12 public schools.



Legislation

FOR purposes of grant funding § 9.1-101 defines a SRO :

- A certified law-enforcement officer.
- Hired by local law-enforcement agency.
- Provides law-enforcement and security services to public elementary and secondary schools.
- Police Departments and Sheriff's Offices can place any officer in a school as they deem appropriate.
- There is not a separate certification for SRO's.





Roles of SRO and SSO

School Resource Officer	School Security Officer
1. Law enforcement agency employee	1. School employee
2. Complying with federal, state and local statutes	2. Complying with/guided by local school policies and regulations
3. Under direction of law enforcement command	3. Under direction of local school principal or designee
4. Assigned to school and community activities	4. Primarily assigned to school campus activities
5. Responsible for enforcing state law	5. Responsible for enforcing school policy
6. Responsible for custody and arrest in conformance with law	6. Responsible for detaining individuals
7. Search must be in accordance with State and Federal law	7. Can search students and others based upon reasonable suspicion
8. Laws and custody requirement procedures apply	8. May detain and question students
9. Act under the standards of law	9. Act in absence of parents (<i>in loco parentis</i>)
10. Use of force permissible as guided by department policy	10. Use of force should be limited and only used in accordance with local school policy





Total Number of Schools with Full-Time School Resource Officers

Type of School	2015	2016	2017
Elementary	34 (3%)	43 (4%)	37 (3%)
Middle	248 (72%)	246 (73%)	231 (68%)
High	271 (85%)	266 (84%)	250 (79%)
Other	57 (29%)	62 (31%)	66 (34%)
Total Schools	610 (31%)	617 (31%)	584 (30%)



Virginia Department of
Criminal Justice Services
www.dcjs.virginia.gov

Source: DCJS 2017 Statewide School Safety Audit Survey



Total Number of Schools with Full-Time School Security Officers

Type of School	2015	2016	2017
Elementary	64 (6%)	71 (6%)	58 (5%)
Middle	97 (28%)	89 (26%)	85 (25%)
High	141 (44%)	135 (43%)	124 (39%)
Other	38 (20%)	43 (22%)	38 (19%)
Total Schools	340 (17%)	338 (17%)	305 (16%)

Source: DCJS 2017 Statewide School Safety Audit Survey



Virginia Department of
Criminal Justice Services
www.dcjs.virginia.gov



Threat Assessment in Virginia Public Schools



Virginia Department of
Criminal Justice Services

www.dcjs.virginia.gov

Threat Assessment

- Threat Assessment is a **preventative system**, not punitive, meant to intervene with individuals posing a risk of harm to self or others and get them off of a pathway to violence.
- Emphasis on “posing” a threat versus “making a threat”.
- Behavior driven.



Threat Assessment

VIRGINIA CARES FOR SCHOOLS & CAMPUSES

CARES involves communities working together to build:

- Caring & Connection
- Awareness
- Recognition
- Engagement
- Support

Toward the safety and well-being of our communities



Virginia Department of
Criminal Justice Services
www.dcjs.virginia.gov



Threat Assessment

Virginia law (§ 22.1-79.4) requires threat assessment teams for public schools:

- Each local school board shall adopt policies
 - Including the assessment of and intervention with **individuals** whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of school staff or students.
 - Consistent with the model policies developed by the Center.
- Each team shall include persons with expertise in:
 - Counseling
 - Instruction
 - School administration
 - Law enforcement





Threat Assessment

Each threat assessment team shall:

- Provide guidance on recognizing threatening /aberrant behavior that may represent a threat
- Identify to whom threats should be reported.
- Report quantitative data to Center.
- Upon a preliminary determination that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to self or others, the team shall report to the division superintendent or designee.
- The division superintendent or designee shall immediately attempt to notify the student's parent or legal guardian.





Threat Assessment

- SRO's are a vital link between the schools and community and can provide valuable resources to assist the family and connect them to services.
- LEO's/SRO's are intimately familiar with the ECO process as well as CPS and can facilitate those connections as appropriate.
- LEO's/SRO's are experienced in dealing with youth in crisis and can be a stabilizing influence.
- Some students will find SRO's safer to open up with than MHP's in schools or school administrators.





Data Collection



Virginia Department of
Criminal Justice Services

www.dcjs.virginia.gov



Data Collection

- Facilitate the annual school safety audit pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-279.8.
- Audit data provides picture of school safety in Virginia to drive best practices and improve school safety for school administrators and first responders.
- Threat assessment teams shall report quantitate data on their activities Va. Code § 22.1-79.4(E).





Data Collection

Safety Audit

“a **written assessment** of the safety conditions in each public school to:

- (i) **identify and if necessary, develop solutions for physical safety concerns**, including building security issues and,
- (ii) **identify and evaluate any patterns of student safety concerns** occurring on school property or at school sponsored events.

Solutions and responses shall include recommendations for structural adjustments, changes in school safety procedures, and revisions to the school board’s standards for student conduct.”





Data Collection





1. **Virginia School Safety Survey**
(completed online annually)
2. **Division Level Survey** (every 1-3 years)
3. **Virginia School Crisis Management Plan Review and Certification** (annually by August 31)
4. **Virginia Secondary School Climate Survey** (administered in the Spring alternating middle and high schools)
5. **School Safety Inspection Checklist** (every 3 years)





Climate Survey Summary

A Virginia High School

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



Virginia Department of
Criminal Justice Services
www.dcjs.virginia.gov



Trainings and Conferences

School Safety

Campus Safety

Public Safety

Mixed Audience



Virginia Department of
Criminal Justice Services
www.dcjs.virginia.gov



Trainings and Conferences

Six annual conferences for primary constituents:

1. Campus Safety and Violence Prevention Forum (March 2018)
2. The Briefings (April 2018)
3. Violent Crime Conference (June 2018)
4. School and Campus Safety Training Forum (August 2018)
5. School Safety Symposium (August 2018)
6. Strengthening Connections (November 2018)

Special topic conferences as needed:

- Civil Disturbance Planning
- Trauma on Law Enforcement



Virginia Department of
Criminal Justice Services

www.dcjs.virginia.gov



Trainings and Conferences

School Safety

- School Resource Officer and School Administrator Training.
- Adult Sexual Misconduct in Schools.
- Bomb Threat Management in Schools.
- Human Trafficking for Schools.
- K-12 Threat Assessment.
- Legal and Liability Considerations in School Safety.
- Gang Awareness for School Personnel.
- Title IX Investigations and the Role of the Office for Civil Rights.





Trainings and Conferences

School Safety

- Next Steps in Crisis Management Planning.
- Critical Incident Response.
- Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events.
- Social Media for Educators.
- Title IX Investigations and the Role of the Office for Civil Rights.
- Drug Abuse Awareness and Prevention.
- Trauma Informed Discipline Practices.
- Restorative Justice Practices.
- Impact of Implicit Biases.





Resources

- *Critical Incident Response Video and Accompanying Manual*
- *Guidance for Emergency Manager Designee*
- *Guidance for School Systems in the Event That Victims Arise from an Emergency*
- *Guidance on Required Drill*
- *Juvenile Law Handbook*
- *K-12 Threat Assessment: A Prevention Overview Video and Accompanying Manual*
- *Model School Resource Officer (SRO) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Program Guide*
- *School – Law Enforcement Partnership Guide*
- *School Crisis, Emergency Management and Medical Emergency Response Plan and Quick Guide*
- *School Safety Audit Infographic*
- *School Safety Audit Template for Divisions*
- *School Safety Audit Template for Schools*
- *School Safety Inspection Checklist*
- *Threat Assessment Model Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines*
- *Technical Assistance for Threat Assessment and Management Teams*
- *Threat Assessment Video and Accompanying Manual*
- *Virginia's Educator's Guide to Conducting Drills*
- *Virginia School Bus Driver and Monitor Video and Manual*





Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety Staff

We are here to help!

www.dcjs.virginia.gov

Donna Michaelis

804-371-6506

donna.michaelis@dcjs.virginia.gov



Virginia Department of
Criminal Justice Services

www.dcjs.virginia.gov