# Superintendent’s Memo #041-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: February 15, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: STOP School Violence Threat Assessment and Technology Reporting Program

The Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS), housed within the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) was recently awarded a grant from the federal Department of Justice, under the Bureau of Justice Assistance’s (BJA) ***Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Threat Assessment and Technology Reporting Program*** in the amount of $869,508. This grant program is designed to improve school security by providing students and teachers with the tools they need to recognize, respond quickly to, and prevent potential acts of violence.

With this three-year grant, the VCSCS will expand training opportunities related to threat assessments across the Commonwealth to school divisions requesting or identified as needing additional support in conducting behavioral threat assessments, building threat assessment teams, and navigating all aspects of threat assessments in support of *Virginia Code* mandates. Through the grant, the VCSCS will also establish a cadre of threat assessment trainers, offer consultation on threat assessment team implementation, develop an online threat assessment training module, and improve the efficacy and efficiency of threat assessment data collection through the development of an online case management tool.

The VCSCS looks forward to working with local school divisions to maximize the effectiveness of the trainings, consultations, and the case management tool. In the coming months, the VCSCS will seek additional input as it works to identify critical capabilities and functionality of a threat assessment team case management system. The VCSCS will also focus on the development of division specific training, which will enhance the effective implementation of threat assessment protocols. The goal of the VCSCS grant is to develop training and technical assistance that accounts for the unique characteristics and resources of each division and develops the capacity of localities to maintain their own needs for ongoing training.

**Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety**

**Threat Assessment Grant Design and Implementation Goals**

# **Training**

Provide thirty-six (36) targeted, one day threat assessment trainings using curriculum created specifically to support Virginia schools in implementing VCSCS model practices. The training will be offered within each of the eight superintendent regions, targeting the school divisions with the most non-reporting schools. This targeted training will focus on providing the opportunity for central office administrators, school administrators, teachers, school-based mental health service providers, and school resource officers to work collaboratively to improve team coordination and enhance and refine the existing practices within their division.

Provide twelve (12) Train the Trainer opportunities to support the internal capacity of divisions to provide ongoing training to new personnel and to develop a cadre of instructors statewide who will be able to provide support to divisions as they manage the training needs of new school and law enforcement personnel.

Develop and produce an online training in threat assessment for teachers and make it available to divisions across the Commonwealth.

## Technical Assistance

Offer school division teams the opportunity to consult with a subject matter expert around the development and/or enhancement of their threat assessment processes and procedures and on case specific questions.

### Online Case Management Tool

In consultation with the Virginia Department of Education and local school personnel, identify functionality and capabilities of the online case management tool that will support school divisions in developing their processes, facilitate the implementation of the VCSCS model procedures with fidelity, assist divisions in recording and reporting on threat assessment team activities, allow for critical information sharing across school divisions, and improve the team’s ability to collaborate on specific cases.

For additional information related to this grant, please contact James Christian at James.Christian@dcjs.virginia.gov, Shellie Evers at Shellie.Evers@dcjs.virginia.gov, or Donna Michaelis at Donna.Michaelis@dcjs.virginia.gov.

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