



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE: June 1, 2023
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **New Legislative Training Requirements for K-12 Public School Threat Assessment Team Members**

To provide ongoing support and resources to school threat assessment teams, the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS), is providing free training to align with legislative updates to threat assessment teams effective July 1, 2023.

Behavioral Threat Assessment Team Training (required)

Effective July 1, 2023, [new legislative requirements](#) will be added to the *Code of Virginia*, [section C of § 22.1-79.4](#). The updates will require each new threat assessment team member at each public elementary and secondary school to complete an initial threat assessment training, and that all threat assessment team members complete refresher training every three years.

K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) Training and Model Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines

Beginning August 1, 2023, the full-day Basic K-12 BTAM training is being condensed to a four-hour training. Additionally, a four-hour refresher training will also be offered by the VCSCS. In-person training for both courses will be available upon request to school divisions. Virtual training will also be offered on multiple dates and open to all threat assessment team members through a general registration process and announced through DCJS training announcements.

The “[Threat Assessment and Management in Virginia Public Schools: Model Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines](#),” will be updated to reflect the new legislatively required training and made available by July 1, 2023. The fifth edition will be available both electronically and in print at that time.

To request a Basic or Refresher BTAM training for your division, if you have questions related to this legislation (Training Requirements for K-12 Public School Threat Assessment team members), or to request K-12 Threat Assessment Training electronically, please contact Brad Stang, K-12 Threat Assessment Program Coordinator, at (804) 997-1278 or Brad.Stang@dcjs.virginia.gov or Doranda Scott, Education Coordinator I, at (804) 225-4653 or Doranda.Scott@doe.virginia.gov.

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