



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE: June 29, 2023  
TO: Division Superintendents  
FROM: Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
SUBJECT: **2023 School Safety Audit**

In the Commonwealth of Virginia, all public schools are required to conduct an annual school safety audit in order to assess school safety conditions. The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS), through the *Code of Virginia* § [9.1-184](#), has been designated to collect, analyze, and disseminate various Virginia school safety data, including school safety audit information submitted to it pursuant to § [22.1-279.8](#). The VCSCS, in consultation with the Virginia Department of Education, has developed a list of items to be reviewed and evaluated in the school safety audits required by this section. Such items shall include those incidents reported to school authorities pursuant to § [22.1-279.3:1](#) and shall include a school inspection walk-through using a standardized checklist provided by the VCSCS, which shall incorporate crime prevention through environmental design principles.

In support of the School Safety Audit Program completion for the 2022-2023 school year, by **August 31, 2023**, division superintendents or a designee are required to update, certify, and disseminate certain school safety information, as outlined by DCJS.

The survey period for the 2023 School Safety Survey and the Division Safety Survey **began on Monday, May 15, 2023, and will end on Thursday, August 31, 2023, at 5 p.m.** All certifications will be collected on the Division Safety Survey site and therefore all school surveys must be completed prior to the division completing the Division Safety Survey.

The [School Safety Audit Program](#) website, the [School Safety Survey](#) homepage, and DCJS staff are available to assist superintendents, emergency managers, and principals in completing these requirements.

For questions regarding the 2023 School Safety Audit and Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Train-the-Trainer program, please contact:

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