

## VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

*An Act to amend and reenact §§ 9.1-184, 22.1-79.4, and 22.1-280.2:3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public elementary and secondary schools; threat assessment team membership; law-enforcement liaison for certain school administrators.*

[H 873]

Approved

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 9.1-184, 22.1-79.4, and 22.1-280.2:3 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

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

A. From such funds as may be appropriated, the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (the Center) is hereby established within the Department. The Center shall:

1. Provide training for Virginia public school personnel in school safety, on evidence-based antibullying tactics based on the definition of bullying in § 22.1-276.01, and in the effective identification of students who may be at risk for violent behavior and in need of special services or assistance;

2. Serve as a resource and referral center for Virginia school divisions by conducting research, sponsoring workshops, and providing information regarding current school safety concerns, such as conflict management and peer mediation, bullying as defined in § 22.1-276.01, school facility design and technology, current state and federal statutory and regulatory school safety requirements, and legal and constitutional issues regarding school safety and individual rights;

3. Maintain and disseminate information to local school divisions on effective school safety initiatives in Virginia and across the nation;

4. Develop a case management tool for the collection and reporting of data by threat assessment teams pursuant to § 22.1-79.4;

5. Collect, analyze, and disseminate various Virginia school safety data, including school safety audit information submitted to it pursuant to § 22.1-279.8, collected by the Department and, in conjunction with the Department of Education, information relating to the activities of school resource officers submitted pursuant to § 22.1-279.10;

6. Encourage the development of partnerships between the public and private sectors to promote school safety in Virginia;

7. Provide technical assistance to Virginia school divisions in the development and implementation of initiatives promoting school safety, including threat assessment-based protocols with such funds as may be available for such purpose;

8. Develop a memorandum of understanding between the Director of the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to ensure collaboration and coordination of roles and responsibilities in areas of mutual concern, such as school safety audits and crime prevention;

9. Provide training for and certification of school security officers, as defined in § 9.1-101 and consistent with § 9.1-110;

10. Develop, in conjunction with the Department of State Police, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and the Department of Education, a model critical incident response training program for public school personnel and others providing services to schools that shall also be made available to private schools in the Commonwealth;

11. In consultation with the Department of Education, provide schools with a 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; and

12. Develop a model memorandum of understanding setting forth the respective roles and responsibilities of local school boards and local law-enforcement agencies regarding the use of school resource officers. Such model memorandum of understanding may be used by local school boards and local law-enforcement agencies to satisfy the requirements of *subsection A of § 22.1-280.2:3*.

B. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall cooperate with the Center and, upon request, assist the Center in the performance of its duties and responsibilities.

**§ 22.1-79.4. Threat assessment teams and oversight committees.**

A. Each local school board shall adopt policies for the establishment of threat assessment teams, 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 Virginia Center for

57 School and Campus Safety (the Center) in accordance with § 9.1-184. Such policies shall include  
 58 procedures for referrals to community services boards or health care providers for evaluation or  
 59 treatment, when appropriate.

60 B. The superintendent of each school division may establish a committee charged with oversight of  
 61 the threat assessment teams operating within the division, which may be an existing committee  
 62 established by the division. The committee shall include individuals with expertise in human resources,  
 63 education, school administration, mental health, and law enforcement.

64 C. Each division superintendent shall establish, for each school, a threat assessment team that shall  
 65 include persons with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration, and law enforcement  
 66 *and, in the case of any school in which a school resource officer is employed, at least one such school*  
 67 *resource officer.* Threat assessment teams may be established to serve one or more schools as  
 68 determined by the division superintendent. Each team shall (i) provide guidance to students, faculty, and  
 69 staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the  
 70 community, school, or self; (ii) identify members of the school community to whom threatening  
 71 behavior should be reported; and (iii) implement policies adopted by the local school board pursuant to  
 72 subsection A.

73 D. Upon a preliminary determination that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to  
 74 self or others, a threat assessment team shall immediately report its determination to the division  
 75 superintendent or his designee. The division superintendent or his designee shall immediately attempt to  
 76 notify the student's parent or legal guardian. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude school division  
 77 personnel from acting immediately to address an imminent threat.

78 E. Each threat assessment team established pursuant to this section shall collect and report to the  
 79 Center quantitative data on its activities using the case management tool developed by the Center.

80 F. Upon a preliminary determination by the threat assessment team that an individual poses a threat  
 81 of violence to self or others or exhibits significantly disruptive behavior or need for assistance, a threat  
 82 assessment team may obtain criminal history record information, as provided in §§ 19.2-389 and  
 83 19.2-389.1, and health records, as provided in § 32.1-127.1:03. No member of a threat assessment team  
 84 shall redisclose any criminal history record information or health information obtained pursuant to this  
 85 section or otherwise use any record of an individual beyond the purpose for which such disclosure was  
 86 made to the threat assessment team.

87 **§ 22.1-280.2:3. School boards; safety and security personnel.**

88 A. The school board in each school division in which the local law-enforcement agency employs  
 89 school resource officers, as defined in § 9.1-101, shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with  
 90 such local law-enforcement agency that sets forth the powers and duties of such school resource officers.  
 91 The provisions of such memorandum of understanding shall be based on the model memorandum of  
 92 understanding developed by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety pursuant to subdivision  
 93 A 12 of § 9.1-184, which may be modified by the parties in accordance with their particular needs. Each  
 94 such school board and local law-enforcement agency shall review and amend or affirm such  
 95 memorandum at least once every two years or at any time upon the request of either party. Each school  
 96 board shall ensure the current division memorandum of understanding is conspicuously published on the  
 97 division website and provide notice and opportunity for public input during each memorandum of  
 98 understanding review period.

99 B. *The chief local law-enforcement officer for any local school division in which a public elementary*  
 100 *or secondary school does not employ a school resource officer, as defined in § 9.1-101, shall designate*  
 101 *a law-enforcement officer to receive, either in-person or online, the training set forth in subsection E of*  
 102 *§ 22.1-279.8. Such officer shall serve as the law-enforcement liaison for the school administrator*  
 103 *described in subsection E of § 22.1-279.8.*