

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-79.4 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public elementary and*  
3 *secondary schools; threat assessment team members; training requirement.*

4 [S 1359]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 22.1-79.4 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**8 **§ 22.1-79.4. Threat assessment teams and oversight committees.**

9 A. Each local school board shall adopt policies for the establishment of threat assessment teams,  
10 including the assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to the  
11 safety of school staff or students consistent with the model policies developed by the Virginia Center for  
12 School and Campus Safety (the Center) in accordance with § 9.1-184. Such policies shall include  
13 procedures for referrals to community services boards or health care providers for evaluation or  
14 treatment, when appropriate.

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

19 C. Each division superintendent shall establish, for each school, a threat assessment team that shall  
20 include persons with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration, and law enforcement  
21 and, in the case of any school in which a school resource officer is employed, at least one such school  
22 resource officer. *New threat assessment team members shall complete an initial threat assessment*  
23 *training and all threat assessment team members shall be required to complete refresher threat*  
24 *assessment training every three years.* Threat assessment teams may be established to serve one or more  
25 schools as determined by the division superintendent. Each team shall (i) provide guidance to students,  
26 faculty, and staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to  
27 the community, school, or self; (ii) identify members of the school community to whom threatening  
28 behavior should be reported; and (iii) implement policies adopted by the local school board pursuant to  
29 subsection A.

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

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

37 F. Upon a preliminary determination by the threat assessment team that an individual poses a threat  
38 of violence to self or others or exhibits significantly disruptive behavior or need for assistance, a threat  
39 assessment team may obtain criminal history record information, as provided in §§ 19.2-389 and  
40 19.2-389.1, and health records, as provided in § 32.1-127.1:03. No member of a threat assessment team  
41 shall redisclose any criminal history record information or health information obtained pursuant to this  
42 section or otherwise use any record of an individual beyond the purpose for which such disclosure was  
43 made to the threat assessment team.

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