

# HB2051

Division superintendents, etc.; annual meetings on school grounds with local law enforcement.



Bill Patron: Delegate W. Chad Green Sr. (69<sup>th</sup> House District)

## What the Bill Does:

Permits each division superintendent or his designee and the school safety audit committee established by the division superintendent to meet annually on the grounds of any public school in the local school division with the chief law enforcement officer of the locality or a designee from the local law enforcement agency to discuss the annual school safety audit completed for such school.

## Why Does This Matter?

- Schools and divisions utilize the annual school safety audit to identify and develop solutions for physical safety concerns, including building security issues, and evaluate any patterns of student safety concerns in order to make recommendations to the school board for structural adjustments, changes in school safety procedures, and revisions to the school board's standards for student conduct.
- An amendment to the Code of Virginia in 2019 requires that each school board must include the chief law-enforcement officer, the fire chief, the chief of the emergency medical services agency, the executive director of the relevant regional emergency medical services council, and the emergency management official of the locality, or their designees, in the development and annual review of its crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans.
- This provision extends that to allow for a meeting with the chief law enforcement on school grounds to discuss elements of the school safety audit. This may strengthen this critical partnership and create safer environments for students.

## How Does This Impact Students?

- School safety audits, well-designed crisis plans, and effective collaboration between school and law enforcement leaders will result in safer school environments for students. Safer schools lead to better learning environments.

## How Does This Impact School Divisions?

- Local school divisions can coordinate with the local law enforcement agency to hold an annual on-site meeting at all school locations to include the chief law enforcement officer or designee to review the completed annual school safety audit.
- The annual on-site meeting with the chief law enforcement officer could provide an opportunity for school personnel and possibly students to interact with law enforcement in a positive and productive context, especially in schools not currently employing a school resource officer (SRO).
- The visit to the school site can enhance efforts by both law enforcement and the school division to elevate and resolve student safety concerns, enhance communication, and provide suggestions for improvements needed to the school safety audit.
- School safety audit action steps would be more effectively and meaningfully implemented with an associated on-site meeting to provide clear context to school level safety audit findings for both the school personnel and law enforcement.

## What Resources Are Available?

The Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS) and Public Safety Services offers the following resources for school divisions to better understand the annual school safety audit requirements

- The [Virginia School Safety Audit Program Webpage](#) webpage includes information on the Safety Audit Components, procedures, and results..
- The [School Safety Audit Infographic](#), created by VCSCS provides a resource for schools that explains the definition, components, and responsibilities for a school safety audit.
- [School Safety Audit Presentation](#)
- The [Guidance for Cell Phone-Free Education Pursuant to Executive Order 33](#), School-based Emergency Communications Strategies section, Pages 12-13) provides school divisions information for their planning fin communicating with families and their community during a school-based crisis.
- The [School Safety Inspection Checklist](#) provides a standardized walk-through inspection checklist to be used as part of the overall school safety audit.
- The [Guidance on School Safety Inspection Checklist](#), created by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, in consultation with the Virginia Department of Education, provides a standardized walk-through inspection checklist to be used as part of the overall school safety audit.
- The [VA Student Threat Assessment Guidelines Research](#) includes a summary of the studies conducted by the University of Virginia on the Virginia Student Threat Assessment Guidelines.

## What Additional Items Will Be Released?

- The Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS) administers the School Safety Survey annually to collect individual school safety audit information. Information on updated guidance documents, timelines, and survey results are available on the [VCSCS Safety Survey webpage](#).
- School Safety Surveys will be available in May.

## School Division Next Steps:

- The Superintendent or designee will certify completion to the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety annually by August 31, 2025 via the Division Safety Survey.
- School divisions are encouraged to coordinate with the local law enforcement agency to hold a meeting on site at each school with the chief law enforcement officer or designee to review the completed school safety audit.
- Division safety teams should review their existing school safety audit data to identify areas for improvement prior to next year’s submission deadlines (August 31, 2026).

## Who is the VDOE Contact:

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