

VBCPS FACT CHECKER

SCHOOL SAFETY:

Because children and schools are the heart of a community, the topic of school safety and security is routinely discussed and analyzed. As such, it is important to have accurate facts about the security practices and protocols in schools as well as the work behind the scenes that goes in to training and preparing students and staff for potential emergencies.

SRO

All middle and high schools have uniformed School Resource Officers (SRO) who are sworn members of the police department. There is a SRO on-site at each of the division's middle and high schools. As part of their assignment, the SROs are also available to respond to their school's feeder elementary schools, if necessary.

If a threat is ever made (whether in person, online or on social media), the school takes immediate action.

If school administration is made aware of the threat, police are notified to begin the investigation. If a threat is shared directly to police, the VBPD reaches out to the Office of Safety and Loss Control to work with the school principal and support police as necessary.



VBCPS has a comprehensive safety plan, which addresses a variety of security measures. The division's Office of Safety and Loss Control also works hand-in-hand with the Virginia Beach Police Department, Virginia Beach Office of Emergency Management, the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services as well as other state and national experts to continue to bring the best practices and state of the art security resources to the division.

Virginia Beach is the only school division in the state to have security assistants and/or security teams in every one of its schools.

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM

Recognizing the overwhelming role mental health plays in regards to school crises, the division's Office of Student Support Services has trained counselors as part of a Crisis Intervention Team at every school. As part of the team's work, they identify warning signs for suicide or potential violence that students might display.

1,600

Schools are among the safest places for children to be.

According to a recent study from Dr. Dewey Cornell, a renowned security expert, children today are 1,600 times more likely to be killed by gun violence at home than at a school.



Research and the day-to-day operations in schools continue to show that the best action to take in preventing school violence is building strong relationships with

students, families and the community. The more encouraged visitors, parents and students feel to sharing concerns or information with school administration and police, the more school administration and police have insight to take immediate action in preventing potential incidents.

