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**Document Title: Threat Assessment in Virginia Schools:
Technical Report of the Threat Assessment
Survey for 2013-2014**

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- The most common threats were threats to kill (20%), hit or fight (18%), cut or stab (13%), shoot (11%), or use some other kind of weapon (10%). Less common were threats involving arson (1%), a bomb or other explosive device (6%), or sexual assault (1%).
- Approximately two-thirds of threats were classified by the school teams as either Low Risk or Transient, which are categories that indicate the person made a threat that not did pose a serious risk of violence.
- The 75 most serious threats were made primarily by students in 8th, 9th, and 10th grade.

Responses to Student Threats

- The school response will vary widely depending on the seriousness of the threat. In most cases, the team notified the student's parents (88%), cautioned the student about the consequences of carrying out the threat (65%), and increased monitoring of the student (53%). In approximately half (51%) of cases, the threat was resolved with the student giving an explanation or apology.
- Various kinds of safety precautions are undertaken when the threat is deemed to be serious. These included consultation with the school resource officer or other school safety specialist (42%), notifying the intended target's parents (35%), protecting and notifying intended targets (29%), developing a behavior intervention or safety plan (25%), and providing direct supervision of the students until removed from campus by law enforcement or a parent (21%).
- A guiding principle of threat assessment is that the most effective way to prevent violence is to address the problem or conflict that underlies the threat. Accordingly the student was referred for school-based counseling (33%), mental health assessment (20%), review of an existing Individualized Education Program (18%) or 504 Plan (2%), special education evaluation (4%), or hospitalization (4%).
- Disciplinary procedures were followed in 80% of cases. This included out-of-school suspension (47%), reprimand (38%), in-school suspension (13%), or detention (6%). Less frequently, students were recommended for an expulsion that was reduced to an out-of-school suspension (6%) or were expelled (2%).
- Law enforcement responses included charging the student with an offense (4%), arrest (2%), and placement in juvenile detention (1%).
- The great majority of students (80%) were able to return to their original school, with others 10% transferred to an alternative school (10%), placed on homebound instruction (5%), or transferred to another regular school (1%).

Violence Not Attempted, Averted, or Not Averted

- In almost all cases (96%) there was no known attempt to carry out the threat. Although a reassuring finding, this observation does not clearly demonstrate that the threat assessment process prevented the threat because there was no control group of threats made in schools without a threat assessment process.
- There were 30 threats (2%) judged by schools to have been averted when a student attempted to carry them out. These cases primarily involved attempted battery, but there were 2 cases in which the student had possession of a firearm and 11 attempts to stab in which a student had possession of a knife or cutting weapon.
- There were 29 threats (2%) judged by the schools to have been carried out by the student. These cases primarily involved battery, with 2 stabbings.

