

# MARGOLIS HEALY

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE VERMONT AGENCY OF EDUCATION  
& DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

## 2021 Summary of School Safety Initiatives

### Vermont's Behavioral Threat Assessment training initiative – Supported by over \$250k in federal funding

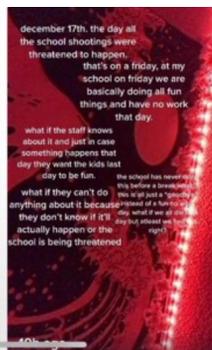
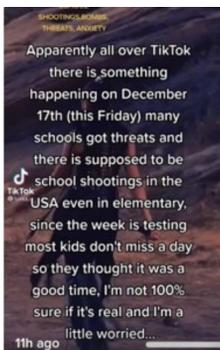
This *virtual* training introduces the concept of threat assessment and includes guidance and resources for forming and implementing a team in a school or school district. This “awareness level” and “train the trainer” program teaches participants how to assess threats and other disturbing behavior, and how to take steps to reduce risk and prevent harm. Over 200 school safety stakeholders trained in 2021, and more to follow in 2022

### Announced! Bureau of Justice Assistance grant funding supports deployment Statewide School Safety Tip Line



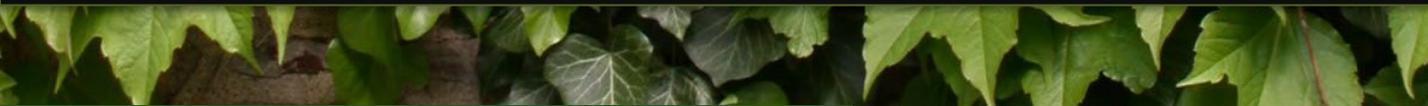
The purpose of this tip line is to enhance school safety and security by providing students, faculty, staff and members of the community, with a tool to report concerning behaviors that may have a negative impact on our schools. These tips will assist law enforcement, human service providers and school administrators in identifying school threats and coordinating assistance to students and families for services not needing immediate response.

### School across VT impacted by social media threats via TikTok



Significant collaborations with school leadership teams, local, county and state law enforcement and the Vermont Intelligence Center helped to limit the negative impacts of these threats.





## "What If" Wednesday - January 12th, 2021

\* 2. At 1:45 in the afternoon, an angry parent comes into the administrative offices and begins to complain to the schools admin team that their child has been bullied in school and is unhappy about what the school is doing to protect their child. The parent becomes very agitated, aggressive and is using very inappropriate language when talking to school staff. You should:



- 1. Attempt to de-escalate the situation as best you can
- 2. Ensure you are not alone in the room with the parent and attempt to call additional staff to the area if needed
- 3. Attempt to de-escalate the situation by raising your voice and yelling at the parent
- 4. Tell the parent you are willing to set up an appointment with other school leaders as soon as possible to have their concerns addressed
- 5. Have additional staff be prepared to call (911) if the situation escalates
- 6. 1, 2, 4 & 5

**What if Wednesday**  
Shared with school faculty and staff via the Agency of Education's Weekly Field Memo to enhance their level of preparedness

Training and Awareness calendar published to provide a framework for future school safety training and exercise initiatives.

Revised school fire/evacuation and emergency preparedness drills to meet health department guidance associated with the pandemic.



**August 2021**  
School In-Service Training  
Review School's Emergency Operations Plan and Standard Response Protocols

**September 2021**  
National Preparedness Month  
Fire Egress/Evacuation and Active Shooter Drills (Instructional Based)



In collaboration with local, county and state law enforcement, tracked all school threats received in all public, private and independent schools across the state.

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Vermont Intelligence Center  
Case Support Information

**VIC Case:** 21-VIC-00150 || **Date:** June 11, 2021  
**Requestor:** R. Evans, School Safety Council  
**Prepared by:** R. LaFond

**2021 / 2022 School Threats to Date as Reported to the Vermont Intelligence Center**

**53** School Threat Reported to the Vermont Intelligence Center as of **January 19, 2022**



For breaking news on the Vermont school safety front, follow us on Twitter:



[@VTED\\_SafeSchool](https://twitter.com/VTED_SafeSchool)



VTED\_SafeSchools  
@VTED\_SafeSchool

Check out the beginning of the year school crisis planning guidance found on the VT School Safety Center's web-site here:

[schoolsafety.vermont.gov/news/beginning...](https://schoolsafety.vermont.gov/news/beginning...)

10:45 AM · Jul 30, 2021 · Twitter Web App

Provided after action review support for schools that have experienced school threats or responded to other critical incidents on campus



## Active member of VT's Child Fatality Review Committee (CFRT)

The team's work is designed to review and analyze the deaths of Vermont children in order to monitor population-level child hazards at a system-level, including those reflecting health equity and social determinants of health, and make specific recommendations to the Legislature to address such identified hazards.

Working with VT Chief's and Sheriff's Associations developed:

1. Recommended training list for all School Resource Officers (SRO's)
2. Developed a list of core competencies for all officers assigned as SRO's
3. Developed a model Memorandum of Understanding between schools and local law enforcement agencies providing SRO's to schools



For additional school emergency preparedness information, please visit the [Vermont School Safety Center's website](https://schoolsafety.vermont.gov)