

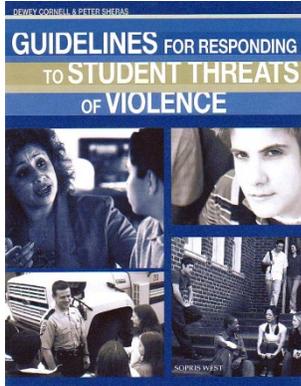
Guidelines for Responding to Student Threats of Violence

Training Available

School threat assessment teams can be trained in a one-day workshop conducted by Dewey Cornell, Ph.D., the primary developer of the Virginia Student Threat Assessment Guidelines. These Guidelines allow school-based teams to evaluate student threats of violence, quickly resolve less serious transient threats and take appropriate action in response to more serious, substantive threats. School teams ordinarily consist of school administrators, mental health professionals (counselors, psychologists, social workers) and law enforcement officers. One or more school systems can train all of their teams in one workshop. Three-day train-the-trainer workshops are also available. Contact Dr. Cornell for costs at dcornell@virginia.edu

The Virginia Student Threat Assessment Guidelines is listed in the federal government's National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices (NREPP). Thousands of schools in more than 20 states have received training. The Guidelines have been evaluated in 2 field-test studies and 5 controlled studies published in refereed journals. These studies have found that schools using the Guidelines are able to resolve threats safely and effectively, allowing almost all students to return to school. Studies have also found that schools have lower suspension rates and fewer alternative school transfers, with *no racial disparities* for Black and Hispanic students. Students report fewer bullying incidents, greater willingness to seek help for bullying and threats of violence, and more positive perceptions of school climate than students in control group schools.

Sample training schedule



1. Rationale for threat assessment
 - Multi-tiered prevention, not prediction
 - Fears versus facts about school safety
2. How to conduct a threat assessment
 - Transient threats
 - Substantive threats
3. Case studies illustrating pathways to violence
4. Research support for threat assessment
5. Legal Issues
 - Confidentiality
 - Liability
6. Team exercises
7. Implementation



Dewey Cornell, Ph.D. is a forensic clinical psychologist who holds the Bunker Chair as Professor of Education at the University of Virginia. Dr. Cornell directs the Virginia Youth Violence Project and has studied youth violence and school safety for more than 30 years. He assisted the FBI's National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime in its study of school shootings and has consulted with many school systems on school safety, bullying, and violence prevention. He has authored more than 200 publications in psychology and education, including *Juvenile Homicide* and *School Violence: Fears versus Facts*. He developed the *Authoritative School Climate Survey* and is principal investigator for statewide studies of threat assessment and school climate funded by the National Institute of Justice. In 2015 he was recognized as a Promise Champion by the Sandy Hook Promise Foundation.