The Virginia Department of Education is committed to providing training and technical assistance services and resources to assist divisions create trauma sensitive learning environments. These efforts include:

1. The [Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports](https://vtss-ric.org/) (VTSS) offers school divisions the opportunity to build their capacity to utilize a multi-tiered framework (or “way of work”) to improve school climate and create an effective and supportive learning environment for all students. This framework works through a lens of the whole child concept that aligns academics, and **behavioral, social and emotional wellness** into a single data-based decision-making framework. Currently, VTSS works with 40 school divisions throughout the commonwealth to support the successful implementation of the framework through training and ongoing coaching.

* This summer, VTSS divisions and school leadership teams are offered a three-day professional learning opportunity designed to enhance their VTSS Tier 1 implementation with trauma-sensitive practices. This session focuses on:
  + The impact of trauma on the developing brain
  + The foundational understanding of the prevalence of trauma
  + Evaluating the impact trauma may have on an educational community
  + Universal strategies to work with all students in a trauma sensitive manner
* In partnership with Formed Families Forward, a community parent resource center, the VTSS is in the final stages of production of a set of three brief training videos designed for wide use by educator and family audiences. The videos focus on building trauma awareness, responding to trauma and traumatic stress, and supporting trauma-sensitive schools. Videos feature cited best practices content as well as personal interviews with educators, clinicians and families impacted by trauma. All videos emphasize the value of and strategies for building resilience at home and at school. Once finalized, these videos will be available on the VTSS and VDOE websites.

1. The Office of Student Services offers an annual two-day institute for Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (SISP) (e.g. school psychologists, school counselors, school social workers and school nurses) solely focused on the mental health services in schools.

* + 2018 session offerings include: mental wellness and social emotional learning; the role of SISPs in building trauma sensitive schools; trauma and the brain; suicide prevention, intervention, and post-vention; self-harm, suicide, and social media; and mindfulness practices.

1. The Office of Student Services offers regional training sessions, by request, on universal trauma sensitive practices that benefit all students. Examples of upcoming events include: 2018 Education Consortium hosted by Lord Fairfax Community College and the Virginia Council of Administrators of Special Education (VCASE) fall conference. These sessions are focused on: understanding the importance of relationships for students who have experienced trauma; identifying strategies to foster an environment that supports a trauma-sensitive classroom; and exploring key classroom practices and understanding how the practices support students impacted by trauma. For more information about these trainings, please contact Michael Gregory, School Social Work Specialist, at [michael.gregory@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:michael.gregory@doe.virginia.gov) or by phone at (804) 225-4543.
2. Through the SAMHSA Project AWARE grant, the VDOE offers [Youth Mental Health First Aid](https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/take-a-course/course-types/youth/), an evidence-based training curriculum designed to instruct teachers and other school personnel to detect and respond to students with mental health issues. Since 2015, we have trained over 3,300 teachers and other school personnel in 39 school divisions. More information about this training can be found at: <https://vtss-ric.org/initiatives/youth-mental-health-first-aid/>.

**Other Helpful Resources:**

**National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)**

*Support Refugee Children & Youth: Tips for Educators*

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/war-and-terrorism/supporting-refugee-students>

**The National Child Traumatic Stress Network**

*Understanding Refugee Trauma for School Personnel*

<https://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/resources/fact-sheet/understanding_refugee_trauma_for_school_personnel.pdf>

**Child Trauma Toolkit for Educators**

<http://traumaawareschools.org/resources-materials/3162/Child_Trauma_Toolkit_Final.pdf?1385464214>

**Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**

*Trauma Informed Care for Children Exposed to Violence: Tips for Agencies Working with Immigrant Families*

<https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/defendingchildhood/legacy/2011/09/19/tips-immigrant-families.pdf>