

# *Virginia* RULES

Teens Learn & Live the Law

## *Teaching Law-Related Education to Virginia Youth*



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# What is Virginia Rules?

**Virginia specific law-related education program for youth in the Commonwealth**

Web-based and interactive curriculum with comprehensive website ([www.virginiarules.org](http://www.virginiarules.org)) that is updated as laws change and needs/resources are identified

Lesson content is correlated with specific grade-level SOL requirements

# Program Goals

- Educate young Virginians about the law
- Help participants develop skills needed to make sound decisions and to avoid breaking laws
- Encourage “active citizenship” in schools / communities among participants

# Why Teach This Curriculum?

- ***Informed youth helps to reduce and prevent incidents and criminal activity***
- Lesson-by-lesson
- Actual language of standards provided
- Interactive format
- Provides a tool to meet teaching objectives
- Endorsed by Secretary of Education

# Where should Virginia Rules be taught?

- Classrooms
  - Tie-ins with health and PE, civics / government, family / consumer sciences
- After-school programs
- Diversion programs
- Church / civic organizations
- ANYWHERE THERE ARE TEENS!

# Virginia Rules Modules

- There are 22 Lesson Plans
- Modules can be used individually or together

First 6 Lesson Plans focus on justice systems

1. Introduction to the Laws in Virginia
2. Virginia's Judicial System
3. Virginia's Juvenile Justice System
4. Introduction to a Virginia Courtroom
5. Criminal Law Basics
6. Civil Law Basics

# Additional Lesson Topics

- Crimes Against Persons
- Property Crimes
- Student Responsibilities
- Keeping Your Drivers License
- Child Labor Laws\*
- Family Relationships and the Law
- Bullying
- Gangs (2 modules)\*
- Teens and Violence
- Dating Violence
- Alcohol and Tobacco
- Drugs
- Technology and You
- Victims' Rights\*
- Teens and Crime Prevention

# 2015 Updates to Existing Modules

- Family Relationships and the Law: Updated Virginia child abuse and neglect statistics, handout and pre/post test
- Teens and Violence: Rework of capital offense material
- Alcohol and Tobacco: Addition of powdered or crystalline alcohol; nicotine vapor products; seeking emergency attention, good Samaritan law
- Drugs: Addition of seeking emergency attention, good Samaritan law
- Technology and You: Addition of law against posting images when one has an expectation of privacy



# Upcoming Modules

## *Slated for Fall 2015*

- Prescription Drugs
- Heroin

## *Other Potential Modules*

- Youth/Law Enforcement Encounters (based on SRO feedback)

***What other topics you would like to see added to the Virginia Rules Program?***

# Virginia Rules Statistics – FY 2015

- 246 new VR instructor accounts created on the [virginiarules.org](http://virginiarules.org) website
- VR instructors have reported facilitating 134 presentations to 17,039 students. This represents a 44.2% increase in number of students taught in comparison to FY2014.
- 213,014 visits to the [virginiarules.org](http://virginiarules.org) website (a 14% increase from FY2014). This includes a 54% increase to visits to the homepage

# VR Statistics – FY 2015 (con't)

## Most popular modules (by pageviews)

1. Child Labor Laws (+ 2.4%)
2. Family Relationships and the Law (+ 261%)
3. Alcohol and Tobacco (+ 10%)
4. Driving (+ 0.8%)
5. Drugs (+ 19%)

# VR Statistics – FY 2015 (con't)

## Most frequently taught modules (per instructors)

1. Technology and You
2. Criminal Law Basics
3. Crimes Against Persons
4. Property Crimes
5. Alcohol / Tobacco

# The Instructor Guide

- Section I
  - Introduction
  - How to use the Instructor Guide
- Section II
  - Roles and Responsibilities of Instructors
  - How Virginia Rules operates
  - Effective Strategies for Collaboration
- Section III
  - Curriculum Overview
  - How Virginia Rules lessons correlate with Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL)

# The Instructor Guide (con't)

- Section IV
  - Tips for Teaching Teens
  - Teen Development/Learning
    - Influenced by social interactions, situational context, personal beliefs, dispositions, and emotions
    - Teens need emotional engagements and purposeful social interactions
    - They may challenge what you have to say
    - Teens only focus on the present

# The Instructor Guide (con't)

- Section V
  - Evaluation of Virginia Rules Program
    - How to Conduct a Basic Needs Assessment
    - <https://p1pe.doe.virginia.gov/pti/>
- Section VI
  - List of Resources and Publications
  - <http://www.virginiarules.com/resources/>
- Appendix A
  - Virginia Rules Planning Tool
- Appendix B
  - Directions for using Virginia's Safe Schools Information Resource (SSIR)

# Assessing Needs at Your School

Page 15 of the Instructor Guide

- Lessons – address identified problems/issues
- Select lessons based on objective assessment

Virginia Rules Planning Tool-page 19

1. Examine DCV (discipline, crime and violence data) (SSIR Guide)
2. Talk with administrators and teachers
3. Identify VR lessons that address problem areas



# Instructor Roles and Responsibilities

- Be fully oriented to the VR Program, its purposes, its components, and how the program operates.
- Examine the school DCV data to identify problem areas and select lessons to address problems identified.
- Collaborate with educators to implement in ways tailored to the needs of schools/communities.
- Be alert to “teachable moments.”

# Instructor Roles and Responsibilities

- Carefully prepare for delivering lessons
- Provide information to the Office of the Attorney General
- Stay alert to emerging issues and share your best ideas and suggestions with the Virginia Rules Program.

# Lesson Plans

## Lesson goal:

To provide an introductory overview of offenses involving property, including crimes in which property is destroyed and crimes in which property is stolen or taken against the owner's will.

## Students will learn:

- what crimes against property entail
- what types of crimes involve taking property
- what types of crimes involve destroying property

## Suggested grade levels:

High school students and advanced middle school students

## Materials:

Virginia Rules "Property Crimes," student handout

## Before the lesson:

1. Read the entire lesson plan.
2. Make copies of handouts and any activity/worksheets used in the lesson.
3. Obtain locality- and community-specific information crime against persons.
4. Give thought to appropriate local examples of the problems/issues discussed in the lesson.

- Lesson goal
- Students will learn . . .
- Suggested grade level
- Materials
- Before the lesson prep

# Lesson Plans

- Introduction
  - Instructional guidance
- Activities/ Worksheets
  - Designed to make teaching the material easy
- Conclusion/Review Activity
- Review and Recap
- Pre-/Post-Test
- Basic PowerPoint

# Resources Lists

- Most credible resources
- Organized by audience and by topic
  - For Instructors
  - For Parents
  - For Students

# Questions?

For additional information or materials,  
contact:

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