

Series 5000: Students, Curriculum, and Academic Matters

5700 Student Health and Safety

5714.01 Behavioral Threat Assessment

The district is committed to providing a safe, secure, productive, and professional learning environment for our students, faculty, administrators, staff, families, and visitors. The district's commitment to security includes creating and maintaining a safe school climate and supportive culture as a foundation for preventing violence and mitigating risk.

The Board directs the Superintendent or designee to implement a behavioral threat assessment process that incorporates best practices in threat assessment, resources to prevent targeted violence, and is supported by research. The focus of the threat assessment process is to keep the school community safe and thriving, establish proactive prevention measures through early identification of potential problems and intervention.

The Board recognizes behavioral threat assessment as one required component of a comprehensive violence prevention program, and as a standard of best practice for preventing targeted violence in schools. Established behavioral threat assessment shall be a systematic process and methodology that:

1. Identifies threats and recognizes other forms of concerning behavior and communications.
2. Assesses the seriousness and potential for violence.
3. Manages, mitigates, and prevents violence and other adverse outcomes.

The established threat assessment process shall be designed to be consistent with the process for identifying, assessing, and managing individuals who may pose a threat as set forth by the National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC), United States Secret Service publication, *Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model: An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence*.

The Board directs the Superintendent or designee to establish for each school building a trained threat assessment team. Each team shall be headed by a Principal or Assistant Principal and consist of multi-disciplinary expertise from school social workers, psychologists, counselors, instructional personnel, and/or security professionals. A threat assessment team may serve in one or more schools, as determined by the Superintendent.

Minimally, threat assessment teams shall meet annually for purposes of refresher training, behavioral threat assessment program updates, case studies, and procedural reviews. The superintendent designee is responsible for coordinating recurrent training and scheduling periodic threat assessment team member meetings.

Responsibilities of Threat Assessment teams shall include responding to reports of threats, concerning behaviors and/or communications by gathering information, investigating the facts and circumstances, and assessing the potential seriousness and imminence of risk for violence.

Upon preliminary determination that an individual poses a threat of violence or physical harm to self or others, the threat assessment team shall immediately report its determination to the Superintendent or designee.

For students at risk for imminent violence, the Superintendent or designee will attempt to immediately notify the student's parent or legal guardian. If the threat assessment process indicates there is a risk of violence in a specific situation, the Team shall develop, implement, and document a case management plan to reduce the threat posed by the student. Nothing in this policy shall preclude school personnel from acting immediately to address an imminent threat by contacting 911 or other emergency responders.

All Board members, district employees, volunteers, and contractors are required to immediately report to the Superintendent, building administrator, or staff member any threats, communications, or behaviors that may suggest a risk of violence to others, the community, school, or self. School community members, including students and parents, are strongly encouraged to report any concerning behavior or communications to any district staff member.

Regardless of threat assessment activities or protocols, referral to law enforcement shall occur as required by State law and policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall manage District threat assessment practices for compliance with operational guidance and protocols. The Superintendent may also establish a committee within the District charged with oversight of the threat assessment teams. Such an oversight body shall include persons with expertise in school administration, education, mental health (social work and psychology), and security or law enforcement. The oversight committee will work to ensure that threat assessment practices comply with policy and operational protocols that align with best practices.

Further, the Board directs the Superintendent to create administrative regulations, guidelines and operating procedures to:

- Identify threat assessment team members by position and role;
- Require appropriate behavioral threat assessment training for team members;
- Define prohibited and concerning behaviors and conduct that should trigger a threat assessment;
- Create a central reporting mechanism for concerning communications and behaviors;
- Establish threat assessment processes and related investigative steps;

- Define criteria for law enforcement intervention;
- Establish requirements for notifications to parents, protective notifications to intended targets, and notifications to others such as mental health, school security, law enforcement, etc.
- Develop case management and intervention options;
- Conduct training for all stakeholders;
- Provide information and awareness messaging to students, building staff, parents, and community members around the importance of, and mechanisms for, reporting concerning behaviors and communications; and,
- Create and promote safe school climates.