

What is a Threat? A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the internet, or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated, and responded to. At times, at-risk assessment may be initiated even in the absence of an explicit threat, due to a series of concerning behaviours by the individual of concern.

What Behaviours Initiate an Assessment of Risk to Others? An assessment of risk to others will be initiated when behaviours include, but are not limited to, serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill, verbal/written threats to harm/kill others, online threats to harm/kill others, possession of weapons (including replicas), bomb threats and fire setting. Sexual intimidation or assault; ongoing pervasive and targeted bullying/harassment; gang-related intimidation and violence; hate incidents. Suicide ideation may at times lead to activation of the protocol.

Duty to Report: To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents, students, and community members must report all threat-related behaviours.

What Do Parents and Students Need to Know?

- ❖ Any threat must be reported to the school principal.
- ❖ Investigation may involve the counsellor, the police, or other community agencies.
- ❖ Investigation may involve locker or property searches.
- ❖ Interviews will be held with the person of concern and other students or adults who may have information about the threat.
- ❖ Parents of students who are directly involved will be notified.
- ❖ Threatening behaviour may result in disciplinary action.
- ❖ An intervention plan may be developed for the student making the threat and a support plan developed for any individuals targeted by threats.
- ❖ Students will likely not be permitted to attend until risk levels are determined and a plan is developed.

What is a Site-Specific Threat Assessment Team?

The school has a Site-Specific Threat Assessment Team that includes the principal(s), counsellor(s), teachers, and a member of the police agency.

What is the Purpose of a Student Threat Assessment?

- ❖ To ensure the safety of students, staff, parents, and others.
- ❖ To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat.
- ❖ To understand factors contributing to the person of concern's behaviour.
- ❖ To be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the person of concern.
- ❖ To promote the emotional and physical safety of all.

What Happens in an Assessment of Risk to Others?

All threat-making behaviour by a student shall be reported to the principal, who will activate the protocol for the initial response. Once the team has been activated, interviews may be held with students, the person of concern, parents, and staff to determine the level of risk and develop an appropriate response to the incident. Intervention plans will be developed and shared with parents, staff, and students as required. During an assessment of risk to others, it is likely that involved students will not be permitted to attend. The purpose of this is to keep everyone safe while the site-specific threat assessment team determines the level of risk. This is not a suspension, punishment, or consequence, unless explicitly named as such.

Can I Refuse to Participate in an Assessment of Risk to Others Process?

If for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process by the person of concern or parent/caregiver, the assessment of risk process will still continue to promote a safe and caring learning environment. The resulting absence of data may result in a higher threat level being determined.

Collection Notice:

The school district is subject to personal information privacy laws and will undertake the collection of this information in compliance with the requirements of such laws. The school district will not collect information as part of an assessment of risk to others unless there is reason to believe that a risk exists. Information collected as part of an assessment of risk to others may be provided to law enforcement authorities in appropriate circumstances.