

Policy Statement # 1480 (Administration) Regarding Behavioral Threat Assessment

I. Purpose

- A. To establish a mechanism for the reporting, assessment and/or intervention of a student, staff, contractor, or visitor who may pose a threat to the safety of any individuals attending or working in our schools.

II. Definitions

- A. School Property- Any Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) buildings and/or grounds, any CCPS leased or owned vehicles, and vehicles contracted for official school business. This included any location used for co- or extra – curricular activities, including field trips.
- B. Threat - A concerning communication or behavior that indicates that an individual poses a danger to the safety of school staff or students through acts of violence or other behavior that would cause harm to self or others. The threat may be expressed/communicated behaviorally, orally, visually, in writing, electronically, or through any other means and is considered a threat, regardless of whether it is observed by or communicated to a third party or whether the target of the threat is aware of the threat.
- C. Aberrant Behavior – Behavior that is atypical that causes concern for the safety or well-being of those involved. Aberrant behavior for an individual involves actions, statements, communications, or responses that are unusual; actions which could lead to violence toward self or others; or actions that are reasonably perceived as threatening or causing concern for the well-being of the person. These can include (but are not limited to): unusual social distancing or isolation of subjects from peers and family members; sullen or depressed behavior from an otherwise friendly and positive person; out of context outbursts of verbal or physical aggression; increased levels of agitation, frustration, and anger; confrontational, accusatory or blaming behavior; an unusual interest in or fascination with weapons; and/or fixation on violence as means of addressing a grievance.
- D. Threat Assessment - A fact-based process emphasizing an appraisal of observed (or reasonably observable) behaviors to identify potentially dangerous or violent situations, to assess them, and to manage/address them.

III. Policy Statement

- A. The Board of Education believes that it has the responsibility to ensure that reasonable precautions are taken to protect the safety and health of students, staff and other individuals who have legitimate business on Calvert County Public Schools' property. Safety and health considerations must be integral to all operations and activities and must involve individuals at every level of the organization.

- B. The Board of Education believes safe and orderly schools are a prerequisite for student learning, achievement, and success. It is therefore necessary to have threat assessment teams who determine a process for regular assessment and intervention, including diversion and de-escalation, if an individual exhibits aberrant behavior that may pose a threat to the safety of another individual attending or working in CCPS.
 - C. The goal of the threat assessment process is to take appropriate preventive or corrective measures to maintain a safe and secure school environment, to protect and support potential victims, and to aid, as needed, the individual being assessed. Threat assessment is to be viewed as one component of an overall strategy to reduce school violence and implemented within the larger context of strategies to ensure schools are safe and secure environments. The principle objective of school violence-reduction strategies is to create a culture and climate of safety, respect and emotional support within the school.
- IV. Delegation of Authority
- A. The Superintendent is directed to develop administrative procedures to implement this policy in accordance with all local policies and local, state and federal laws and regulations and to communicate this policy and accompanying procedures to all relevant parties.
- V. Exceptions
- A. There are no exceptions to this policy. However, the Board by majority vote may temporarily suspend all or part of this policy. Suspension of all or part of this policy, however, in no way relieves the Board of its obligation to comply with the pertinent local, state and federal laws and regulations or the rules and regulations of the Maryland State Board of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education.
- VI. Review
- A. This policy will be reviewed at the end of four years, or sooner, if approved by majority vote of the Board of Education in public session.
- VII. Effective Date
- A. This policy is effective August 16, 2023.

Citations

State Law:
State Reg.:
Federal Law:
Adm. Reg.:
Neg. Agr.:
Other Citation