

RISK FACTORS FOR POTENTIAL VIOLENCE

Risk factors are the ecological and personal features in a student's life than increase the statistical probability of the student engaging in violent behavior.

Risk Factors

The following are possible risk factors but are not all-inclusive.

Family History:

- Divorce
- Domestic Violence
- Substance abuse
- Emotional, physical and sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Violent, ineffective, antisocial or toxic role models
- Frequent moves

Early Indicators of Violent Tendencies:

- Fire setting
- Cruelty to animals
- Interested in real and / or fictional violence
- Early initiation of problem behaviors (K-3rd grade)

Individual Factors:

- Low commitment to school
- Early academic failure
- Aggression

Mental Health Factors:

- Suicidal / Homicidal
- Substance abuse or dependence
- Real or perceived loss / grief
- Low / inflated self-esteem
- Impulsivity
- Acceptance of violent behavior
- Other mental health issues

Criminal Background:

- Past violent acts / crimes
- Past non-violent crimes
- Police contacts
- Probation / Incarceration

Social Factors:

- Institutionalization
- Foster care
- Homelessness
- Violent or antisocial peer group membership
- Seen as “geek” or “nerd” by others

Environmental / Situational Factors:

- Inconsistent implementation of policies and /or other discipline
- Feeling of isolation
- Real or Perceived demeaning and oppressive treatment
- Organization that “looks the other way”
- Lack of safe school plan
- Lack of adequate security and security measures
- No reporting mechanism in place for students or staff to anonymously report “threats”
- Faculty that do not respond to complaints/threats

Precipitating Event:

- Teasing / humiliation
- Significant personal rejection
- Loss of personal relationship
- Personal failure
- Discipline by authority figures
- Extreme jealousy
- Victim of bullying or ridicule