

Operational Services

Administrative Procedure - Threat Assessment Team (TAT)

This procedure implements Threat Assessment Teams (TATs). TAT members are professional educators, mental health professionals, law enforcement professionals, and professionals from other disciplines as necessary who are trained in behavioral threat assessment. See p. 3 of 4:190-AP1, *Targeted School Violence Prevention Program*, for authority encouraging the establishment of TATs.

TATs function at the Building level, taking direction from the District-level School Violence Prevention Team. They address potential or developing threatening behavior exhibited not only by students, but from a broad range of individuals affecting the District environment, including:

- Students: current and former (and potentially prospective)
- Employees: current and former (and potentially prospective)
- Parents/guardians of students
- Persons who are (or have been) in relationships with staff or students
- Contractors, vendors, or other visitors
- Unaffiliated persons

Customize this procedure to each TAT's building-specific needs, and use it in conjunction with 4:190-AP1, *Targeted School Violence Prevention Program*; 4:190-AP2, E1, *Principles of Threat Assessment*; 4:190-AP2, E2, *Threat Assessment Documentation*; 4:190-AP2, E3, *Threat Assessment Key Areas and Questions; Examples*; 4:190-AP2, E4, *Responding to Types of Threats*; and 4:190-AP2, E5, *Threat Assessment Case Management Strategies*. This procedure contains five sections as follows:

1. Glossary of Terms
2. TAT Formation, Development, and Responsibilities
3. Assessing and Classifying Threats
4. Responding to and Managing Threats
5. Reporting Threats to Outside Agencies

Glossary of Terms

Subject of Concern (Subject) – an individual who has been identified to pose a threat of violence or serious harm to self/others.

Target – an individual who is the intended target of the threat posed by the subject of concern.

Threat Assessment – A fact-based process emphasizing an appraisal of observed (or reasonably observable) behaviors to identify potentially dangerous or violent individuals/situations, to assess them, and to manage/address them.

Threat Assessment Team (TAT) – A multidisciplinary Building-level team lead by the Building Principal to perform specific threat assessments that, if available to serve, must include the following members: an administrator, a teacher, a school counselor, a school psychologist, a school social worker, and at least one law enforcement official.

TAT Triage Team – Consists of at least two members of the TAT designated by the Building Principal to triage reported cases of threatening behavior. Screens cases to determine if sufficient resources exist to address concerns or if review and/or action by the full TAT is appropriate.

Types of Threats –

Low-Risk Threat: Subject/situation does not appear to pose a threat of violence or serious harm to self/others, and any exhibited issues/concerns can be resolved easily.

Moderate-Risk Threat: Subject/situation does not appear to pose a threat of violence or serious harm to self/others at this time, but exhibits behaviors that indicate a continuing intent and potential for future violence or serious harm to self/others, and/or exhibits other concerning behaviors that require intervention.

High-Risk Threat: Subject/situation appears to pose a threat of violence, exhibiting behaviors that indicate both a continuing intent to harm and efforts to acquire the capacity to carry out the plan, and may also exhibit other concerning behaviors that require intervention.

Imminent Threat: Subject/situation appears to pose a clear and immediate threat of serious violence toward self/others that requires containment and action to protect the District’s environment and/or identified or identifiable target(s), and may also exhibit other concerning behaviors that require intervention.

TAT Formation, Development, and Responsibilities

Following are tasks to integrate TATs into the District’s Targeted School Violence Prevention Plan.

Actor	Action
Superintendent or designee	<p>Ensures TATs are trained in threat assessment by a threat assessment expert. Free statewide training is available through the Ill. School and Campus Safety Program, at: www2.illinois.gov/ready/plan/Pages/schools-training.aspx.</p> <p>Prior to the start of each school year, files this procedure and a list identifying the members of all TATs with: (1) a local law enforcement agency, and (2) the Regional Office of Education or Intermediate Service Center, as applicable. 105 ILCS 128/45(b), amended by P.A. 102-791. Informs the Board that this filing was completed.</p>
Building Principal	<p>Selects TAT members with expertise in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School administration, e.g., a principal or other senior administrator from the school(s) covered by the TAT and human resource professionals; Instruction, e.g., a teacher or administrator with recent instructional experience; Counseling, e.g., a school counselor, school psychologist and/or school social worker; Law enforcement, e.g., a school resource officer; Being a staff member in the building; and Other community resource persons (as members or consultants as determined by the TAT). <p>Designates a TAT triage team. See 4:190-AP2, E2, <i>Threat Assessment Documentation</i>.</p> <p>When a tip or concern is raised, activates the TAT and uses this procedure.</p>
TAT	<p>Receives education and seeks training resources, including 4:190-AP2, E1, <i>Principles of Threat Assessment</i>.</p> <p>Receives threat assessment training by a threat assessment expert.</p> <p>Commits to work collaboratively with each other, with other school staff, and (as appropriate) with community resource persons to support the safety of the school, its students, and its staff.</p>

Actor	Action
	<p>Actively, lawfully, and ethically communicates with each other, District administrators, and other school staff who have a need to know particular information to support the safety of the school, its students, and its staff.</p> <p>Trains staff, students, parents/guardians, and other members of the school community to recognize and report possible threats by conducting presentations, broadly disseminating relevant information, and ensuring access to consultation from the TAT.</p> <p>Identifies and trains members of the school community who can take reports of possible threats.</p> <p>Effectively implements Board policy 4:190, <i>Targeted School Violence Prevention Program</i>.</p>

Assessing and Classifying Threats

When a threat is reported, the Building Principal and TAT assess and classify the threat using the criteria and process outlined below.

Actor	Action
Building Principal	<p>Educates him/herself about <i>types</i> of threats.</p> <p>Determines if an imminent threat exists. If an imminent threat exists, notifies law enforcement in accordance with 4:170-AP1, <i>Comprehensive Safety and Security Plan, Part G, School Emergency Operations and Crisis Response Plan (SEOCR)</i>.</p>
Building Principal and/or TAT Triage Team	<p>If no imminent threat exists, or once an imminent threat is contained, triages threat (with the TAT Triage Team, if one is designated by the Building Principal) to determine if the full TAT must be involved. See 4:190-AP2, E2, <i>Threat Assessment Documentation</i>.</p> <p>Triage may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing the threatening communication and/or behavior. Reviewing school and other records for any prior history or interventions with the individual(s) involved. Evaluating the threat in context so that the meaning of the threat and intent can be determined by, among other things, conducting timely and thorough interviews (as necessary) with the person(s) who reported the threat, the threat recipient(s)/target(s), other witnesses who have knowledge of the threat, and when reasonable, the subject of concern (subject) who allegedly engaged in the threatening communication and/or behavior. <p>If the full TAT needs to be involved, convenes it as soon as possible.</p>
TAT	<p>Assesses the threat. See 4:190-AP2, E3, <i>Threat Assessment Key Areas and Questions; Examples</i>, for key questions to ask the person(s) who reported the threat, the threat recipient(s)/target(s), other witnesses, and the subject in order to assess the threat.</p> <p>Once the assessment is complete, classifies the threat using the following basic criteria:</p>

Actor	Action
	<p>Documents the threat assessment and classification using 4:190-AP2, E2, <i>Threat Assessment Documentation</i>, and ensures that TAT documentation follows the acronym FORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> F Fair – sought to understand situations and give individuals an opportunity to be heard and understood; O Objective – sought information based on facts and observations of the case and not speculation or bias; R Reasonable – engaged in responses that were effective and proportionate to the situation; and T Timely – quickly and responsively addressed reports of threatening behavior.

Responding to and Managing Threats

Actor	Action
TAT	<p>Identifies appropriate responses to the threat based upon its level. See 4:190-AP2, E4, <i>Responding to Types of Threats</i>, for guidance on responses to each threat level.</p> <p>Develops, implements, and monitors an individualized, fact-based case management plan to intervene with, address, and reduce the threat by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designating a TAT member as case manager to monitor the status of the subject and to notify the TAT of any change in status, response to interventions/referrals, or additional information that would be cause for reassessment and/or changes in interventions strategies; Assisting the subject, and any impacted staff or students, in accessing appropriate school and community-based resources for support and/or further intervention; Appointing one or more TAT members to engage directly with the subject to prevent the subject from becoming isolated; and Using the least intrusive interventions and strategies that are sufficient, fair, and reasonable to address the concerns identified. See 4:190-AP2, E5, <i>Threat Assessment Case Management Strategies</i>, for interventions and strategies, including those that are subject-based, target-based, and environmental/systems-based. <p>Documents this process and any case updates using 4:190-AP2, E2, <i>Threat Assessment Documentation</i>.</p> <p>Submits updates regularly, e.g., at least every 30 days, until the case is resolved and the subject no longer poses a threat to the school, its students, or its staff.</p> <p>Maintains documentation in accordance with Board policy, State records laws, and administrative procedures.</p>

Reporting Threats to Outside Agencies

Following is the process to notify the Local Law Enforcement Agency (LLEA) and/or the Ill. State Police (ISP) about certain types of threats:

Actor	Action
Superintendent or designee	<p>Reports batteries committed against teachers, teacher personnel, administrative personnel, or educator support personnel to: (1) the LLEA immediately after the occurrence of the attack, and (2) ISBE through its web-based School Incident Reporting System (SIRS) as they occur during the year and no later than August 1 for the preceding school year. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.7, amended by P.A. 102-894.</p> <p>Immediately notifies the LLEA and the ISP upon receiving a report from any school personnel regarding a verified incident involving:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A firearm in a school or on school-owned or leased property. 105 ILCS 5/10-27.1A(b).</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Drugs in a school or on school-owned or leased property, including any conveyance owned, leased, or used by the school for the transport of students or school personnel. 105 ILCS 5/10-27.1A(b).</p>
Building Principal	<p>Reports to the LLEA threats to the safety and welfare of students and teachers by illegal use of drugs and alcohol, by illegal use or possession of weapons, or by gang activity. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.4a.</p> <p>Reports other threats to the LLEA as necessary and appropriate.</p> <p>Immediately notifies the LLEA upon receiving a report that any person has been observed in possession of a firearm on school grounds (other than a law enforcement official engaged in the conduct of his or her official duties).</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">If the person found to be in possession of a firearm on school grounds is a student, the Building Principal or designee shall also immediately notify the student's parent/guardian. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.7A(b).</p> <p>Reports directly to the ISP within 24 hours of a determination that a student or other person poses a clear and present danger to himself, herself, or others. 430 ILCS 66/105 and 405 ILCS 5/6-103.3; 20 Ill.Admin.Code §1230.120(b).</p>

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