

MODEL POLICY FOR STUDENT THREATS TO HARM OTHERS

Rationale: All students have the right to attend school in a safe and orderly environment that is conducive to learning. For this reason, there will be a standard procedure for investigating and responding to student threats to harm others.

Threat to harm others: A threat to harm others is defined as any spoken, written, or behavioral communication of intent to physically injure or harm someone else. A threat may be communicated directly to the intended victim or communicated to a third party.

Threat assessment: In order to maintain the safety of students and school personnel, student threats to harm others will be reported to the school principal. The principal or designee will lead a threat assessment team whose purpose is to conduct a threat assessment to determine the seriousness of the threat and take necessary steps to protect others and maintain a safe and orderly learning environment. The threat assessment team may include a representative from law enforcement, a mental health professional, and other members of the school staff designated by the principal. Our threat assessment team includes: Annette Losco, Superintendent; Tony Losco, Principal; Sara Puckett, Principal; Brandon Ruck, School Resource Officer; Addey Headlee, School Counselor; Megan Tegge, School Counselor; Riley Anthony, School Wellness Specialist.

Substantive and Transient threats: A threat that is judged to involve sustained, serious intent to harm someone is termed a “substantive” threat. A threat that is judged not to be serious, because it can be immediately resolved so that there is no sustained intent to harm, is termed a “transient” threat. Judgments about the seriousness of a threat will be based on a consideration of the context and meaning of the threat. When the seriousness of a threat is unclear, the principal will treat the threat as a substantive threat until its status is determined.

Disciplinary consequences: Both substantive and transient threats are subject to the full range of disciplinary consequences. The principal or designee will consider the seriousness of the threat and the degree to which the threat is disruptive to a safe and orderly learning environment conducive to learning for all students.

Parent notification: When a student is reported to have made a threat to harm others, the principal or designee will conduct an immediate threat assessment of the student for the purpose of determining the seriousness of the threat and will take necessary steps to protect others and maintain a safe and orderly learning environment. A threat assessment may include interviewing the student who was reported to make a threat and interviewing other students who have knowledge of the threat or

information relevant to the safety of others. Parents will be notified promptly when a student has been interviewed about a reported threat.

Law enforcement notification: If a student is determined by the principal or designee to have made a substantive threat to harm others, and this threat involves a threat to kill, severely injure, or commit a sexual offense, the threat will be reported to law enforcement.

Notification of intended victims and parents: If a student is determined by the principal or designee to have made a substantive threat to harm others, and the threat targets specific, identifiable victims, the intended victim(s) of the threat will be advised of the nature of the threat and the identity of the student who made the threat. If an intended victim is a student, the student's parents will also be notified.

Mental health assessment: If a student is determined by the principal or designee to have made a substantive threat to harm others, the student will be seen by a school psychologist, counselor, clinical social worker, or other mental health professional to determine the student's immediate mental health status and safety needs.

Student suspension: When a student is determined to have made a substantive threat to harm others, the student may be suspended from school. During the suspension period, the threat assessment team will gather information necessary to develop a plan for meeting the student's educational needs and maintaining a safe and orderly school environment.