

Policy 3225

Section: 3000 – Students

School-Based Threat Assessment

The Board is committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for students and staff. This policy establishes a school-based threat assessment program to provide for timely and methodical school-based threat assessment and management.

Threat assessment best occurs in school climates of safety, respect, and emotional support. Student behavior, rather than a student's demographic or personal characteristics will serve as the basis for a school-based threat assessment.

The threat assessment process is distinct from student discipline procedures. The mere fact that the district is conducting a threat assessment does not by itself necessitate suspension or expulsion and the district will not impose suspension or expulsion, including emergency expulsion, *solely* for investigating student conduct or conducting a threat assessment. Further, suspension, or other removal from the school environment can create the risk of triggering either an immediate or a delayed violent response, unless such actions are coupled with containment and support. However, nothing in this policy precludes district personnel from acting immediately to address an imminent threat, including imposing an emergency expulsion, if the district has sufficient cause to believe that the student's presence poses an immediate and continuing danger to other students or school personnel or an immediate and continuing threat of material and substantial disruption of the educational process.

Structure of Threat Assessment Teams

The superintendent shall establish and ensure the training of a multidisciplinary, multiagency threat assessment team or more than one such team to serve district schools. As the threat assessment team must be multidisciplinary and multiagency, it might include persons with expertise in:

- Counseling, such as a school counselor, a school psychologist and/or school social worker,
- Law enforcement, such as a school resource officer,
- School administration, such as a principal or other senior administrator,
- Other district or school staff,
- Community resources,
- Special education teachers, and a
- Practicing educational staff member.

Not every multidisciplinary team member need participate in every threat assessment. When faced with a potential threat by, or directed towards, a student receiving special education services, the threat assessment team must include a team member who is a special education teacher.

Although parents, guardians, or family members are often interviewed as part of the threat assessment process, neither the student nor the student's family members are part of the threat assessment team. This does not diminish the district's commitment that school personnel will make every reasonable attempt to involve parents and the student in the resolution of the student's behavioral violations, consistent with Policy and Procedure 3241 – Student Discipline.

Function of Threat Assessment Team

Each threat assessment team member, whether a teacher, counselor, school administrator, other school staff, contractor, consultant, volunteer, or other individual, functions as a "school official with a legitimate educational interest" in educational records controlled and maintained by the district. The district provides the threat assessment team access to educational records as specified by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). No member of a threat assessment team, including district / school-based members and community resource / law enforcement members, shall use any

2161 - Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students
2162 - Education of Students With Disabilities Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
3143 - District Notification of Juvenile Offenders
3231 - Student Records
3241 - Student Discipline
3432 - Emergencies
4210 - Regulation of Dangerous Weapons on School Premises
4310 - District Relationships with Law Enforcement and other Government Agencies
4314 - Notification of Threats of Violence or Harm

Legal References:

CFR 34, Part 99, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Regulations
Chapter 28A.320 RCW
Chapter 28A.300 RCW

Adoption Date: **9.20**
Classification: **Essential**