

THREAT ASSESSMENT

A threat assessment is designed for use with students who are engaged in behaviors that suggest the potential for aggression directed at other people. School administrators will consider completing this assessment if any of the following are present:

- The threat or aggression is specific to an identified target along with a motive and plan.
- A weapon was brought to school or there was an attempt to bring a weapon onto school grounds.
- The threat, aggression or violence is causing considerable fear or disruption to school operations.
- There is continued intent to carry out threat, aggression, or violence exists.
- A history exists of threats, aggression, or violence.
- The administrator is unable to otherwise determine if a situation poses risk to school personnel or the community.

A threat assessment is not predictive of future violence, nor is it a foolproof method of assessing potential for harm to others. Further, the threat assessment is not a checklist that can be easily quantified. It is designed as a procedural guide to assist in the investigation of potential danger and to assist school staff in the development of a management plan. A completed threat assessment exists to document and assess a specific incident during one period of time; therefore, if this protocol is reviewed after the initial assessment date, the circumstances, interventions, and passage of time must be considered. Lastly, this process will also determine if more extensive assessment by an outside agency will be required.

Threat assessments are completed through investigation conducted by a multidisciplinary team consisting of an administrator, a school counselor, and a school resource officer. The threat assessment process must be reviewed solely on facts and behaviors associated with the threat assessment. The administrator will lead the discussion using the noted step-by-step instructions and accompanying questions as a guide. Other individuals, as necessary, should also be included as sources for additional information. These include, but are not limited to:

- Teachers, coaches, case managers, and other educators.
- District/school security staff, instructional assistants, transportation staff, or other people who have contact with students.
- Parents/guardians, if time and circumstances allow.
- Case managers, and probation officers if student is adjudicated or a ward of the state.

Students will not attend the threat assessment meeting, although student information will be gathered through the investigation process.

Prior to completing the assessment, the following information should be considered:

- Cumulative folder of the student being assessed
- Other records of the student being assessed, including, but not limited to, academic history, attendance records, student behavior IEP/504 plans, law enforcement, mental health records, behavior or management plans, probation records
- Communications, including but not limited to, emails, text messages, and social media
- Internet history
- Interviews
- Schoolwork
- Personal belongings

The anticipated time commitment to complete the threat assessment range between 20 to 45 minutes in the majority of situations and includes the threat assessment process and assignment of appropriate interventions.

The completed assessment will be confidentially placed in the student's cumulative records. If the student transfers out of district, the confidential material will be expunged.

Complementing Policies:

- ACE, Violent and Threatening Behavior
- ACE-E2, Threat Assessment Protocol