

# **West Northfield School District 31**

## **Student Threat Assessment System**

District 31 utilizes the Salem Keizer-Cascade Threat Assessment Model. This model is a researched based model to prevent school violence and promote school safety.

### **Goals of the Threat Assessment System Are:**

- Prevent students who are at risk from committing violent acts in school.
- Help protect students and staff members from potential violence.
- Provide a student-specific safety plan utilizing community resources to mitigate the threat of violence.
- Involve parents in the threat assessment process.
- Document the program's effectiveness in dealing with students who make threats of violence, including student academic and behavioral success.
- Work in collaboration with community partners to coordinate resources for the safety and well being of youth, families and communities.

### **Objectives**

1. Assess threats of potentially harmful or lethal behavior and determine the level of concern and action required.
2. Organize resources and strategies to manage threatening situations that pose a risk of harm to others.
3. Maintain a sense of psychological safety among our schools and community.
4. Reduce the number of expulsions for students who can be maintained safely in the school environment.

### **Level 1 Assessment**

School staff are trained to complete the Level 1 Threat Assessment. Components of the Level 1 Threat Assessment include the Level 1 Protocol, Parent Interview, Staff questionnaire, Student Interview and Student Witness form. Upon completion of the Level 1 Threat Assessment, a safety support plan are developed. In addition, a referral may be made for a Level 2 Threat Assessment.

### **Level 2 Assessment**

When a Level 2 Threat Assessment is requested, the team expands to include community partners who have been trained in Threat Assessment and Threat Management. These partners may include members from law enforcement, mental health, juvenile justice and children's services. They provide recommendations for resources and additional support in developing a plan for the student with the goal of increasing safety for the student, school and community.

### **Experienced Staff**

Our staff has a unique skill set of experience in threat assessment, mental health, prevention and intervention, and special education. We are knowledgeable about community and district resources, and participate in community teams and initiatives focused on improving youth access to services and supports.

Staff expertise deepen the scope of the Threat Assessment Program:

- Provides informative Level I consultations and training for school administrators.
- Shifts the threat assessment focus to more school support at Level I which empowers school staff to handle difficult situations.
- Further equips building staff with more evaluative tools to assess sexual incident and self-harm and suicide.
- Integrates regional mental health case management (Child Protective Team and Managed Care Organizations) which leverages additional resources for students.
- Facilitates information sharing among districts by tracking and notifying district safety officers of high risk students moving between districts.