

Investigative Themes Outlined by U.S. Secret Service & NTAC (2002, 2018, 2019, 2021)	
Motives	What motivated the student to engage in the behavior of concern? What is the student trying to solve?
Communication	Have there been any concerning, unusual, threatening, or violent communications? Are there communications about thoughts of suicide, hopelessness, or information relevant to the other investigative themes?
Inappropriate Interests	Does the student have inappropriate interests in weapons, school attacks or attackers, mass attacks, or other types of violence? Is there a fixation on an issue or a person?
Weapons Access	Is there access to weapons, especially firearms? Is there evidence of manufactured explosives or incendiary devices?
Stressors	Have there been any recent setbacks, losses, or challenges? How is the student coping with stressors?
Emotional and Developmental Issues	Is the student dealing with mental health issues or developmental disabilities? Is the student's behavior a product of those issues? What resources does the student need?
Desperation or Despair	Has the student felt hopeless, desperate, or like they are out of options?
Violence as an Option	Does the student think that violence is an acceptable, desirable, or only way to solve a problem or settle a grievance? Have they in the past?
Concerned Others	Has the student's behavior elicited concern for parents, friends, classmates, teachers, or others who know the student? Was the concern related to safety?
Capacity to Carry Out an Attack	Is the student's thinking and behavior organized enough to plan and execute an attack? Does the student have the resources?
Planning	Has the student initiated an attack plan, researched tactics, selected targets, or practiced with a weapon?
Consistency	Are the student's statements consistent with his or her actions or what others observe? If not, why?
Protective Factors	Are there positive and prosocial influences in the student's life? Does the student have a positive and trusting relationship with an adult at school? Does the student feel emotionally connected to other students?

(U.S. Secret Service, 2022; NTAC, 2018, 2019, 2021)