

TO: Larry Mendonca, Superintendent

Regular Meeting

SUBJECT: OJUSD (site) Response to Threats to Schools

Date: March 10, 2025

BACKGROUND

Inevitably, schools receive threats directed at students and schools. The district has established protocols to effectively analyze and respond to these incidents. This update is provided to inform the board about the specific actions and responses implemented at the site level.

ANALYSIS

Regularly reviewing and updating our processes is essential for maintaining effective practices at our sites. As our school culture evolves, it's crucial that our district has comprehensive safety procedures in place to ensure the well-being of both students and staff. This includes promptly notifying families and staff when a threat is identified.

RECOMMENDATION:

No action is needed at this time.

Prepared by:

Approved for Submission
to the Governing Board by:


Catherine Medlin
Director of Child Welfare and Attendance


Larry Mendonca
Superintenden



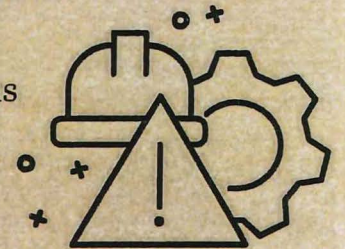
Oakdale Joint Unified School District Response to School Threats

Keeping Staff and Students Safe



Defining a threat:

- **Verbal Threats**: Direct or indirect statements made to intimidate, harm, or cause fear regarding the safety of the school community. This could involve threats of violence or harm directed at specific individuals or the school in general.
- **Written Threats**: Any written communication (including digital messages, emails, or social media posts) that indicate the intent to harm or cause danger to individuals or the school.
- **Physical Threats**: Actions or behaviors that may create a perceived risk of harm, such as bringing dangerous objects to school, making gestures or movements that suggest violence, or acting in a way that causes others to fear for their safety.
- **Cyber Threats**: Online threats made through emails, text messages, or social media platforms, where an individual or group expresses intent to cause harm or damage to the school environment.
- **Implied Threats**: Statements or actions that don't explicitly mention harm but imply danger, such as threatening to damage property or disrupt the school environment in a way that may cause fear or distress.



California Education Code § 48900.4



A pupil enrolled in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive, may be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion if the superintendent or the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled determines that the pupil has intentionally engaged in harassment, threats, or intimidation, directed against school district personnel or pupils, that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to have the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting classwork, creating substantial disorder, and invading the rights of either school personnel or pupils by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment.

OJUSD wants to make it clear that any threat made against our schools or its members is taken seriously. Threatening behavior is unacceptable and will not be tolerated under any circumstances. If an individual is found responsible for making a threat, they will face appropriate consequences in accordance with both legal guidelines and school policies. These consequences may include disciplinary action and, if warranted, legal repercussions.

- A student may be suspended or recommended for expulsion if they intentionally threaten, harass, or intimidate another student, group of students, or staff.
- The threats or harassment must be severe enough to disrupt classwork, create disorder, or invade the rights of others.
- The threats or harassment must create an intimidating or hostile educational environment with regard to the school as a whole.

Reporting a Threat:

Reporting a school threat is a serious matter, and it's crucial to follow the correct steps to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

1. Report to Law Enforcement
2. Notify School Authorities Immediately
3. Use the district's Anonymous Reporting Tool - STOPit

When reporting a threat, it is crucial to provide all relevant details



Students can report threats on the STOPit Solutions app. This is an anonymous reporting platform that sends a message to sites and district employees as soon as the notification is submitted. The link can be found on our district & school websites.

Law Enforcement Response



Once a report is made to law enforcement or school officials, one will notify the other and each will conduct a thorough investigation into the threat. Law enforcement will assess whether the threat is credible.

- If the threat is deemed credible, the schools will immediately notify parents to keep students at home via phone dialer.

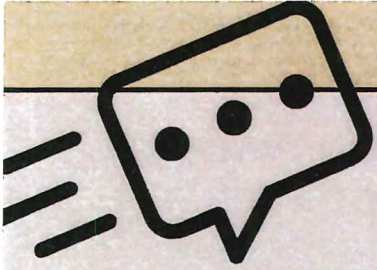
Investigations conducted by OPD after school hours may result in later notification to school administration.

- If students and staff are already on-site, the school will implement safety protocols, which may include a lockdown, securing the premises, or evacuating the building.

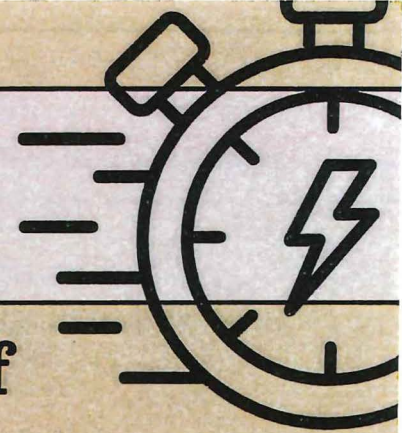
How OPD determines credibility of a threat:

- All threats are considered credible until proven otherwise.
- The nature of the threat is assessed.
- Context and source of the threat are evaluated.
- The level of the threat is determined.
- The history and potential motive are considered.
- Communication with school officials is taken into account.

Each investigation has its own timeline. As soon as it is appropriate and does not compromise the investigation, families and staff will be informed of the incident.



School Response:

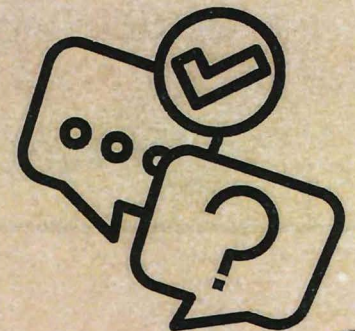


The safety and well-being of our students and staff is the number one priority for OJUSD

Each situation is unique, and we will carefully assess every threat to determine the most appropriate course of action. This may involve varying levels of response, such as enhanced security measures, collaboration with local law enforcement, and the implementation of additional precautions. Our priority will always be to take immediate action and ensure the safety of everyone on campus.

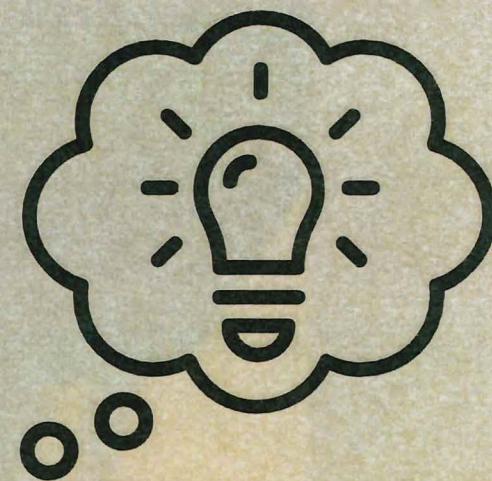
Actions Taken Upon Learning of a Threat:

- Contact law enforcement immediately.
- Notify families as quickly as possible through the OJUSD automated telephone messaging system, ensuring timely updates throughout the situation.
- Inform staff members on-site to ensure coordinated response and safety measures.



Key Points to Remember:

- **Report Suspicious Activity:** Immediately report any unusual or suspicious behavior to school staff or local law enforcement. Early intervention can prevent potential issues before they escalate.
- Please refrain from posting on social media - Immediately inform law enforcement and the school site.
- Schools will inform families as soon as possible. Depending on when the threat is identified, there may be instances where information cannot be sent out before the start of the school day.
- Parents/Guardians should continue monitoring student phones, social media accounts, and other platforms. Engage with students about what's happening at school and within their social circles.



Catherine Medlin

Director Child Welfare and Attendance

cmedlin@ojusd.org

(209) 848-4884 ext. 120

