

Threat Assessment

What Is The Purpose Of Student Threat Assessment?

The purpose of a Student Threat Assessment is:

- ◆ To ensure safety of students, staff, parents and others.
- ◆ To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat.
- ◆ To begin to understand the factors that contribute to the threat maker's behavior.
- ◆ To be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the **emotional and physical safety of the threat maker**.
- ◆ **To promote the emotional and physical safety of all.**

What Is A Threat?

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something:

- ◆ Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet or made by gesture (body language)
- ◆ These threats may be direct, indirect, conditional or veiled
- ◆ Threats must be taken seriously, investigated and responded to
- ◆ All incidents of threats will be taken seriously

What Behaviors Initiate A Student Threat Assessment?

A Student Threat Assessment will be initiated when behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Serious violence with intent to harm or kill others.
- ◆ Verbal / written threats to harm or kill others (authored or un-authored)
- ◆ Internet websites/MSN/cell phone.
- ◆ Possession of weapons (including replicas or any other item appearing as a weapon.
- ◆ Bomb Threats.
- ◆ Sexual intimidation or assault.
- ◆ Fire setting.
- ◆ Gang related intimidation and violence.
- ◆ Code of Conduct is not being adhered to.

What Happens In A Student Threat Assessment?

The Process:

- ◆ All threat making behavior (s) by a student shall be reported to the principal who will activate the protocol for the initial response.
- ◆ Once the team has been activated, interviews may be held with the student (s), the threat maker, parents and staff to determine the level of risk and to develop an appropriate response to the incident.
- ◆ Intervention plans will be developed and shared with parents, staff and students as required.

Can I Refuse To Be A Part Of The Student Threat Assessment Process?

It is important for all parties to engage in the process. However, if for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process by the threat maker or parent / guardian, the threat assessment process will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning environment for all.

What Is A Threat Assessment Team?

Each school has an Emergency Response Team. Within this team, designated members will act as part of the School Based Threat Assessment Team.

This team is multidisciplinary and may include the Principal or designate School Counsellor, District Counsellor, RCMP and any other person or agency as necessary to complete the process.

Duty to Report

To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents, students and community members must report all threat related behaviours.

We gratefully acknowledge St. James-Assiniboia School Division for their support in the publication of this brochure.

