



VIOLENCE THREAT / RISK ASSESSMENT

Background

All students and staff are entitled to work and learn in environments that are caring, respectful and safe. The Division is committed to maintaining an acceptable standard of student behaviour and decorum and has established protocols in response to student threats/high-risk behaviours.

Definitions:

High Risk Behaviours: Behaviours which express a plausible intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something.

Immediate Risk Situations: Situations involving high risk that require immediate police interventions and a protective school response.

Risk Assessment: The process of determining if a child/youth of concern may pose a risk to some unknown target(s) at some unknown time.

Threat Assessment: The process of determining if a threat maker poses a risk to the target he/she have threatened.

Violence-Threat Risk Assessment: Includes data collection and initiation of immediate risk-reduction interventions. It may be recommended by the VTRA team when a more comprehensive response including risk evaluation, long-term intervention and treatment planning are needed.

Violence Threat/Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol: A formal agreement signed by each of the participating partners which is representative of their commitment to the VTRA process as well as their participation and support.

Worrisome Behaviours: Behaviours which cause concern and may indicate that a child/youth, who is not overtly threatening or violent, may be moving towards a greater risk of violent behavior.

Procedures

1. Any person in a school having knowledge of high-risk student behaviour, or having reasonable grounds to believe there is a potential for high-risk behaviour, will immediately report the information to the Principal and/or designate.
2. No action shall be taken against a person who makes a report unless it is made maliciously or without reasonable grounds. In cases where a report is made maliciously, the person shall be dealt with according to division procedures and the police where applicable.



3. At the start of every school year, students, parents and staff will be provided with information about the protocol and procedures so that “fair notice” is given that high-risk/threatening/violent behaviors will not be tolerated.
4. Schools will respond to high-risk/threat-related behaviours. High-risk behaviours will be taken seriously, assessed accordingly and responded to appropriately.
5. Violence-Threat/Risk Assessments (VTRA) will be initiated when required.
6. When a student exhibits immediate risk behaviors, the Principal or designate will contact the police without delay, and take steps to ensure the safety of all those in the school by activating established security procedures. The Principal or designate shall notify the Superintendent or designate and the Director of Student Services as soon as possible following contact with police.
7. The Principal shall notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student making a threat at the earliest opportunity.
8. When a student exhibits high risk behaviours the Principal or designate shall initiate the VTRA process.
9. When dealing with students who exhibit worrisome behaviors, staff shall consult with the counselor, inform the Principal, and contact the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s).
10. The Principal (or designate), will be responsible for completing a Threat/Risk Assessment Incident Report, which will be kept on file.
11. The Director of Student Services is responsible to ensure the effective implementation of Violence Threat/Risk Assessment Protocol in the Division.

Reference: Section 8, 11, 31, 32, 33, 35.1, 36, 37, 52, 53, 196, 197, 222, 257 Education Act
Section 264.1(1) Criminal Code of Canada