

Student Threat Assessment: Fair Notice and Process for Students and Parents

What behaviours Initiate a Student Threat Assessment?

A Student Threat Assessment will be initiated when behaviours include, but are not limited to: serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill, verbal/written threats to harm/kill others, Internet-based threats (Facebook, MSN) to harm/kill others, possession of weapons (including replicas), bomb threats and fire setting.

Duty to Report

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

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. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated and responded to.

What is a Threat Assessment Team?

Each school has a Threat Assessment Team that is multi-disciplinary. The team includes the Principal or Vice-Principal, Counsellor, Police, and other school staff

What is the purpose of a Student Threat Assessment?

The purposes of a Student Threat Assessment are:

- To maximize the safety of students, staff, parents and others.
- To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat.
- To begin to understand the factors which contribute to the threat makers' behaviour.
- 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 happens in a Student Threat Assessment?

The Process:

All threat making behaviour(s) by a student(s) 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 develop an appropriate response to the incident.

Intervention plans will be developed and shared with parents, staff and students as required.

When a student is new to NVSD, it is expected that NVSD be informed of any previous threat assessment recommendations.

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.

The model presented in this document reflects the thinking and work of J. Kevin Cameron, Director of the Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response.