



## DISTRICT PRACTICE 5300

### STUDENT THREAT ASSESSMENT

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#### DEFINITIONS

**Assault** is any willful action that inflicts injury upon another student or staff member.

**Violence** is any intentional words or actions meant to provoke another or to retaliate, that can escalate and result in injury. Threats of suicide are considered acts of violence.

**Risk** is when a direct threat has not been made, but there has been increasing violent ideation or behaviours that suggest the frequency or intensity of violence or violence potential may be escalating.

**Threat** is a statement suggesting intent to inflict harm or injury on a student or staff member. Threats also include words or actions used to intimidate, harass or bully other persons or the presence of a weapon or imitation weapon.

**Threat assessment** is the process of determining if a threat maker actually poses a risk self or to the target(s) they have threatened. Multidisciplinary teams engage in a data collection process, through structured interviews, to determine initial levels of risk that may be posed and plan necessary risk-reducing interventions.

**Threat maker** is someone who utters, writes, emails, etc., a threat to kill a target or targets

#### DISTRICT PRACTICE

1. Trained multidisciplinary teams at both the school and School District level will use the protocol for dealing with high-risk student behaviours when responding to threats.
2. At the beginning of each year, schools must review the threat assessment policy and district practice with all staff and students, the school Parent Advisory Council, and with parents/guardians through the school newsletter in order to provide fair notice that each threat will be taken seriously.
3. Students and staff who become aware of a threat are to inform the principal or vice principal immediately.
4. The principal/vice principal is expected to secure the school environment by detaining students involved in a threatening or violent situation, notifying parents/guardians, implementing the school discipline policy and district practice as appropriate to the situation, or by taking any other immediate action deemed necessary to ensure student and staff safety.
5. The school threat assessment coordinator is to be notified of all threats or violent situations and will coordinate the school's threat assessment procedures.
6. The suspension of students for engaging in threatening or violent acts is not to be a substitute for a thorough threat assessment and intervention plan. Suspension may be used as an interim intervention as the threat assessment is conducted and within the guidelines of the suspension

#### [POLICY 5300 STUDENT THREAT ASSESSMENT](#)

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Amended:

policy and district practice until an adequate intervention plan can be implemented appropriately.

7. School threat assessment teams will be formed to assess intervention needs, based on the level of the threat, consult with outside experts, and provide intervention recommendations to the school threat assessment coordinator and to the principal.
8. When the threat assessment protocol is activated, a designated threat assessment team member will notify parents/guardians. Whenever possible, parents/guardians should be an integral part of the risk assessment process.
9. For serious threats requiring significant interventions and protection of students and/or staff, the School District threat assessment team consisting of the School District threat assessment coordinator, the Aboriginal education coordinator, the child and youth mental health Psychologist, a trained RCMP liaison officer and a school-based principal other than the principal of the school where the threat occurred is to be notified.
10. The RCMP officer in charge of the local community police office should be contacted prior to requesting a police investigation.
11. The School District threat assessment team will meet with the school threat assessment coordinator and one other member of the school threat assessment team to review the incident, assess the threat intervention needs, and make recommendations for intervention planning to the school principal for action and the superintendent of schools for information.
12. The resulting assessment report and recommendations represent the collective opinion of the whole team rather than any one individual member of the team.
13. If students are suspended for threat containment purposes for up to and including 10 school days as per policy and district practice 5850 Student Suspension until the threat assessment is completed, then interim counselling and support services are to be provided as appropriate when students are suspended for up to and including 10 days to ensure student safety and well-being. Any recommended suspensions over 10 school days will be referred to the Board of Education as per policy and district practice 5850 Student Suspension.
14. Schools are to report all threats involving threat assessment procedures to the school-based health and safety committees, the School District health and safety committee, and the Board of Education outlining the incident, the assessed threat level, actions and interventions taken and planned;
15. Communication with the media will be done solely through the superintendent's office.