

# Threat Assessment and Intervention

Keeping Our Students Safe!

The well-being and safety of members of the school community are a shared responsibility. Attention to maintaining secure environments, hazard awareness, and practical planning for emergencies is important for all of us. This includes preventing and responding to the risk of violence.

Schools continue to be among the safest places in our community. To continue to promote the safety and well-being of students, we have developed, with our community partners, Student Threat Assessment and Intervention procedures to respond to threats of violence.

Our Student Threat Assessment and Intervention Protocol has been developed to respond to behaviours, including actions, statements and other indicators that suggest that a student may be “at risk” of harming others. To keep school communities safe and provide support to everyone, staff, parents, students, and community members must report all threat-related behaviours to the school administrator or police as soon as possible.

Note - other procedures and protocols are in place to deal with threats from adults in the school community.



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# Student Threat Assessment and Intervention



# Student Threat Assessment and Intervention: Fair Notice and Process

## What is the purpose of Student Threat Assessment and Intervention procedures?

The purposes of Student Threat Assessment and Intervention procedures are intended to:

- ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and other members of the school community;
- ensure an effective and timely response when there is a threat of violence;
- begin to understand the factors that contribute to a situation where an individual makes threats to harm others;
- assist in the development of an intervention plan; and
- promote the emotional and physical safety of everyone involved.

## What is a threat?

A threat is an indication of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet, made by gesture or reasonably inferred from the surrounding circumstances of events. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated and responded to in a timely way.

## What happens when a threat of violence is reported?

All threatening behaviours by a student shall be reported to the principal who will activate the Student Threat Assessment and Intervention protocol.

Once a threat has been reported to a school administrator, interviews will be conducted. These interviews may include students, staff, family members and/or others as appropriate. This will be done to determine the level of risk, and develop an effective and timely response to the incident. After the immediate safety risk has been addressed, support and intervention plans will be developed with input from parents/guardians.

## Is parental/student consent required?

Consent is not required to respond to an emergency situation. When there is a risk that someone may be harmed, it is important that the incident be addressed as quickly and effectively as possible with all parties involved as necessary.

## Fair Notice

Please consider this pamphlet as “fair notice” to all members of the school community that any report of a threat to harm others (spoken, written or gestured) will be investigated. The Student Threat Assessment Intervention protocol is part of our strategy to create a safe, secure and supportive school environment for everyone.

## Who is a member of a Student Threat Assessment and Intervention team?

Each school will have staff trained in the Student Threat Assessment and Intervention process. A multi-disciplinary Student Threat Assessment and Intervention team will carry-out the threat assessment, and develop an effective and timely intervention plan. The team includes a School Administrator, a School Social Worker and/or a Psychological Services staff member, or a York Regional Police officer and/or school personnel who know the student well.

## Questions?

If you have any questions please contact your school administrator.