

Student Threat Assessment Protocol: Fair Notice

School District No. 22 is committed to creating and maintaining school environments in which students, staff, parents/guardians/caregivers, and others feel safe. Schools cannot ignore any threat of violence.

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 website/MSN threats 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.

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?

The District has a Threat Assessment Team which is multi-disciplinary. The team includes the Director of Student Support Services, District Vice-Principal, School Psychologist, District Behaviour Specialists, Drug and Alcohol Counsellor and District Mental Health and Wellness Liaison. The team may include a Principal, Vice - Principal, District Counsellor, School Counsellor and RCMP.

What is the purpose of a student threat assessment?

The purposes of a student threat assessment are:

- To ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and others.
- To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat.
- To understand factors contributing to the threat makers' 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 happens in a student threat assessment?

All threat making behaviour 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 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 participate in a 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 promote a safe and caring learning environment for all.

Collection Notice:

The school district is subject to personal information privacy laws and will undertake the collection of this information in compliance with the requirements of such laws, including by limiting collection to information that is relevant and necessary to address a risk or threat and by ensuring that information is collected from publicly available open source social media sites. The school district will not collect information as part of a threat assessment unless there is reason to believe that a risk exists. Information collected as part of a threat assessment may be provided to law enforcement authorities in appropriate circumstances.

What do I do if I have witnessed firsthand a threatening act of violence on school property?

- 1. Make sure you are safe.**
- 2. Contact the School Principal and/or the RCMP and file a report regarding what you witnessed**
- 3. The Principal will then investigate the report, depending upon the outcome, the Principal will contact the RCMP and the School District No. 22 District VTRA team will determine next steps.**

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

In Support of Safe Schools,

Christine Love

Director of Instruction – Student Support Services

SD No. 22 Vernon

Cc: R.C.M.P. Vernon Detachment

Mr. Joe Rogers, Superintendent

M.C.F.D. Vernon