

THREAT ASSESSMENT

Beautiful Plains School Division believes that threat making behavior by individuals within our educational system must be taken seriously. Our system will have zero tolerance **for not responding to threat related behavior.** In general high risk threat making behaviors are those of students age 12 and older who are believed to have contravened Section 264.1 (1) of the Criminal Code of Canada which states that students “who in any manner, knowingly utters, conveys or causes any persons to receive a threat... to cause death or bodily harm” has committed an offence.

Threat related behavior includes but is not limited to:

- possession of weapons
- bomb threats
- verbal / written threats to injure / kill others or do harm to themselves
- internet related threats (email, websites etc...)
- threats that are gestures, drawn, etc.

Procedures

Students, staff, and parents will be provided with information about the Divisional policy on threat assessment on an annual basis.

Each school, where size warrants, will establish a threat assessment team. Teams shall be comprised of the following:

Team Leaders

School Administration

School Counselor where available

Staff members as decided at the school level

RCMP

Additional support team members (as needed)

Division Administration

Physicians

Child and Family Services

Mental Health

Probation services

Reporting

Any staff member having knowledge of high risk threat making behavior on the part of an individual(s), or having reasonable grounds to believe there is a potential for violent behavior, shall promptly report the information to the school administration. Students will be encouraged to report high risk threat making behavior to the administration or to a staff member.

Team Activation

Upon receiving information of high risk threat making behavior the team leader will activate the threat assessment team. If appropriate, parents will be notified at the earliest opportunity by one of the threat assessment team members.

The following categories will guide the actions of the team / team leader.

Immediate Risk

When immediate risk is identified the matter is one of immediate police intervention. Available personnel will contact the police and take steps to ensure the safety all school members as denoted in established protocols.

Student Behaviors with a High Risk for Violence

All high risk threat making behaviors as defined above will result in the activation of the threat assessment team by the school administration to assess the threat behavior. In these cases the police office assigned to the team has the “first call” as to whether or not charges will be laid. Regardless of the decision of the police the team will continue conducting a risk assessment and determine follow-up recommendations for the school system. It is understood that collaboration with the appropriate agencies will be ongoing, notwithstanding the fact that each team member has their own jurisdiction.

Worrisome Behaviors

All worrisome behaviors will be communicated to the risk assessment team leader for consultation. Worrisome behaviors are those that cause concern for members of the school system that indicate that a student is moving toward a greater risk of violent behavior. This would include instances where a student may be engaging in behaviors such as drawing pictures, writing stories in class, or making vague statements that do not in themselves constitute “uttering threats” as defined by law but are causing concern for members of the school community because of their violent content. In these cases the team is not activated formally. The principal, with team members, determines whether or not there needs to be formal action. The police may be consulted but such consultation is not done as a formal complaint.

Approved Dec. 16, 2003