

Frequently Asked Questions From Parents about Threat Assessments

Why do schools conduct Threat Assessments?

- Threat Assessment protocols seek to ensure and promote the emotional and physical safety of all students, staff, parents/guardians, and others.
- Threat Assessments seek to ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat.
- Protocols help school staff understand the factors contributing to the student of concern's behavior.
- While balancing the needs of all members of the school community, Threat Assessments allow districts to be proactive in developing an intervention plan, in a consistent manner, that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the student of concern and provides appropriate resources.
- A Threat Assessment may or may not lead to disciplinary actions in accordance with the district's discipline policy.

When are Threat Assessments conducted?

- All threat-related behaviors must be reported to appropriate school administrators in order to ensure the safety of communities.
 - Threats may be: written, verbal, drawn depictions or virtual means, such as social media posts or perceived threats through gestures, body language or stalking behaviors.
- After a threat has been reported or behaviors of concern identified, the trained threat assessment team will investigate the situation to ensure the safety of the student and school community.

How could my child be involved in the Threat Assessment process?

- Interviews will be conducted with the student of concern and any other students or adults who may have information about the threat. This may include students who are identified as a possible target of the threat. An interview may take place before knowing a student is a target or while this concept is still being investigated.
- Inquiries may involve locker or personal belongings searches, as well as a review of the student's internet and social media history.

Will I be notified?

- Parents/guardians of students of concern and possible targets of threats will be notified.
- State law does not require districts to contact parents/guardians before starting a threat assessment, as this delay might interfere with student and/or school safety.

What can I expect during the Threat Assessment inquiry if my child is the alleged perpetrator of the threat?

- Parents/guardians may be interviewed during a Threat Assessment inquiry as your knowledge of your child is important to the team's determination of the severity of the threat and support to be implemented for your child.
- If your child is receiving mental health services outside of school, a school may request permission to communicate with the child's treatment provider.
- Schools may involve counselors, police, or other community agencies during the inquiry process.
- Parents/guardians have a right to request a copy of their student's threat assessment as part of their educational records. Please check with your school/district's policy for requesting this information.
- At the conclusion of the Threat Assessment inquiry, with the input of the student and their parents/guardians, the school will create a Response, Management, and Support Plan (RMS Plan) to outline any interventions and/or resources that will be put in place to support the student.
- If the student is absent from school for any time during the Threat Assessment inquiry, the student and their parents/guardians will be invited for a Re-Entry Meeting to discuss the RMS Plan, any work that has been missed, and how best to help the student comfortably reintegrate into the school community.