

Threat Assessment Protocol

At A Glance

Threat Assessment Team

- Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
- Psychologist
- Appropriate Student Services Teacher
- School Guidance Counsellor
- School Administration

The Threat Assessment Team can include the following on a needs basis:

- Educational Assistants
- Classroom teachers
- AFM Youth Worker
- Mental Health Youth Worker
- RCMP
- Parents
- Child and Family Services
- Youth Justice
- Medical Physicians
- Children's disABILITIES
- Other

School Administration

- Receives notification of threat and completes Risk/Threat Assessment Incident Report (4-S.1) with input from appropriate staff and/or students. [This form begins a student file in the principal's office.] A copy to be sent to the Superintendent.
- In discussion with the guidance counselor and appropriate student services teacher/team determines the level of concern.

Low Level of Concern

Risk to the target(s), students, staff and school safety is minimal.

- Threat is vague and indirect.
- Information contained within the threat is inconsistent, implausible or lacks detail; threat lacks realism.
- Available information suggests that the person is unlikely to carry out the threat or become violent.
- Typical baseline behaviour.

Medium Level of Concern

The threat could be carried out, although it may not appear entirely realistic. Violent action is possible.

- Threat is more plausible and concrete than a low level threat. Wording in the threat and information gathered suggests that some thought has been given to how the threat will be carried out (e.g., Possible place and time).
- No clear indication that student of concern has taken preparatory steps (e.g., weapon, seeking), although there may be an ambiguous or inconclusive references pointing to that possibility. There may be a specific statement seeking to convey that the threat is not empty: "I'm serious!"
- Moderate or lingering concerns about the student's potential to act violently.
- Increase in baseline behaviour.

High Level of Concern

The threat or situation of concern appears to pose an imminent and serious danger to the safety of others.

- Threat is specific and plausible. There is an identified target. Student has the capacity to act on the threat.
- Information suggests concrete steps have been toward acting on the threat. For example, information indicates that the student has acquired or practiced with a weapon or has had a victim under surveillance.
- Significant increases in the baseline behaviour.

A. Low Level of Concern Process

- Principal will deal with obtaining all information and work with the student services team to develop an intervention plan. (Step 8)
- Contact with parents will happen at this time.
- Minutes will be taken regarding level of concern and actions. A copy will be placed in the student file in the principal's office.
- Notification of situation be given to Assistant Superintendent of Student Services.

B. Medium to High Level of Concern Process

A FULL THREAT ASSESSMENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THIS TIME.

- The principal and/or guidance counsellor will immediately contact the Threat Assessment Team.
- Threat Assessment Team will complete the Violence-Threat/Risk Assessment report form (V-TRA)
- Notify parents/legal guardians of student making threat and parents of those students against whom threat was made.
- In order to protect others and/or threat maker; the threat maker will be placed on a supervised in-school suspension.

Be Careful: No student is to be sent home during a threat assessment situation. The isolation and disconnection felt by high risk students during a suspension may be exacerbated if steps are not taken to keep the student connected to healthy supports.

- Parents/legal guardians must meet with school administration to set up direct release of student. (If parents refuse to pick up their child, CFS and/or RCMP will be notified to collect the student.)
- When and if circumstances warrant, team members work with student and parents/legal guardians to develop a re-entry plan for school.
- On completion of the Violence-Threat/Risk Assessment Report (V-TRA), send to the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services. (The report to be kept in a confidential file in Superintendent's office and subject to file destruction as per TMSD procedures/policy.)
- A copy of the intervention plan (Step 8) will be kept within the student file in the principal's office.
- Inform all staff in general terms to be aware of any type of further inappropriate/risky behaviour and report this to school management. (Specific information given on a need to know basis.)
- All staff must be made aware of any intervention strategies affecting the whole school.