

Threat Assessment

Threat assessment is a behavioral approach to violence prevention that focuses on threats and other forms of student conflict before they escalate into violent behavior. Threat assessment teams use a problem-solving approach to evaluate the risk of violence posed by someone and provide interventions and resolutions to the issues that underlie the threatening behavior. This approach is recommended by the FBI, US Secret Service, and the Department of Education, and supported through law by the state of Tennessee.

The Threat Assessment process involves identifying students who either demonstrate behaviors of concern or who have made threats to commit a violent act. Once identified, school level teams with the support of our district team will determine the seriousness of the threat and develop intervention plans that not only protect potential targets but also provide resources and supports that address the underlying problem or conflict that stimulated the threatening behavior.

It is important to remember that the likelihood of a student carrying out a threat of violence is very low. In most instances, threatening remarks are a sign that a student is frustrated, angry, or in need of help. The ultimate goal of the threat assessment process is to keep schools safe and to help potential offenders.

If you or your child is aware of any potential threatening situation, it is important to contact the school principal or a member of the administrative team.

FAQ's

What is a threat?

A threat is any expression of an intent to harm someone. Threats may be spoken, written, or expressed in some other way, such as through a behavior or gestures. Threats may be direct, indirect, vague, or implied.

Who is on the Threat Assessment Team?

The school level threat assessment team includes a School Administrator, School Counselor, and additional members as needed with support from our district staff. Each member has a role in the assessment process and in the follow up for each student.

What happens during a Threat Assessment?

1. Notification of a Threat

Anyone with concerns should notify the school administrator or law enforcement about the nature of the concerns. All members of the community have a responsibility to share concerns for the safety and well-being of the community.

2. Information Gathering from the Threat Assessment Team (Assessment)

Team members will gather information about the situation, student of concern, and will consider other data resources in the schoolhouse.

3. Analysis and Classification of the Threat

Team members will analyze all information and determine if the threat is credible or noncredible.

4. Response and Management to the Threat

If the team believes the person poses a threat, then the team will develop and implement a plan to respond to the threat and manage and reduce the risk. It will also include a plan of support for the student of concern and any potential target.