



SECTION: STUDENTS

POLICY: 236.1

TITLE: THREAT ASSESSMENT

ORIGINAL: December 13, 2021

CURRENT REVISION:

**LAST REVIEWED BY THE
COMMITTEE:**

I. PURPOSE

The Board is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of its students and the school community and providing the resources and support to address identified student needs. The Board adopts this policy to address student behavior that may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community and others.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Behavioral service providers** – includes, but is not limited to, a state, county or local behavioral health service provider, crisis intervention center or psychiatric hospital. The term includes a private service provider, which contracts with a state, county or local government to act as a behavioral health agency.
- B. **Bias** – the attitudes or beliefs we have about a person or group that affects our understanding, actions and decisions in a conscious or subconscious manner.
- C. **Individualized Management Plan** – a plan developed for a student who is referred to the threat assessment team that documents the concerns that brought a student to the team’s attention, as well as the resources and supports a student might need based on the information gathered during the assessment.
- D. **Threat assessment** – a fact-based process for the assessment of and intervention with students whose behaviors may indicate a threat to the safety of the student other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others.

III. POLICY

- A. The Board directs the Superintendent or designee, in consultation with the School Safety and Security Coordinator, to establish a threat assessment team and develop procedures for assessing and intervening with students whose behavior may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community and others.
- B. Training
 - a. The School Safety and Security Coordinator shall ensure that threat assessment team members are provided individual and/or group training on:
 - i. Responsibilities of threat assessment team members.
 - ii. Process of identifying, reporting, assessing, responding to and intervening with threats.
 - iii. Identifying and avoiding racial, cultural or disability bias.
 - iv. Confidentiality requirements under state and federal laws and regulations, and Board policies.

- v. Student Assistance Program process.
 - vi. Youth suicide awareness, prevention and response.
 - vii. Safe2Say Something procedures.
 - viii. Multi-tiered systems of support.
 - ix. Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support.
- b. Threat assessment team training shall be provided in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.
- C. Information for Students, Parents/Guardians and Staff
- a. The district shall notify students, staff and parents/guardians about the existence and purpose of the threat assessment team through posting information on the district website, publishing in handbooks and through other appropriate methods.
 - b. The threat assessment team shall make available age-appropriate informational materials to students regarding recognition of threatening or at-risk behavior that may present a threat to the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others and how to report concerns, including through the Safe2Say Something program and other district reporting hotlines or methods. Informational materials shall be available for review by parents/guardians.
 - c. The threat assessment team shall make available informational materials for school employees regarding recognition of threatening or at-risk behavior that may present a threat to the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others and how to report concerns, including through the Safe2Say Something program and other district reporting hotlines or methods. Information for school employees shall include a list of the staff members who have been appointed to the threat assessment team.
- D. Reporting and Identification
- a. The threat assessment team shall document, assess and respond to reports received regarding students whose behavior may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others.
 - b. The threat assessment team shall assist in assessing and responding to reports that are received through the Safe2Say Something Program identifying students who may be a threat to themselves or others.
 - c. The threat assessment team shall assist in assessing and responding to reports of students exhibiting self-harm or suicide risk factors or warning signs, as identified in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.
 - d. When the threat assessment team has made a preliminary determination that a student's reported behavior may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, the team shall immediately take the following steps:
 - i. Notify the Superintendent or designee and School Safety and Security Coordinator of the reported threat.
 - ii. Notify the building principal of the school the student attends of the reported threat, who shall notify the student's parent/guardian of the reported threat.
 - e. When a reported student's behavior indicates that there may be an imminent threat to the safety of the student or others, or an emergency situation, a threat assessment team member shall take immediate action, which may include promptly reporting to the appropriate law enforcement agency and school administration.

- f. Where a threat assessment team member has reasonable cause to suspect that a reported situation indicates that a student may be a victim of child abuse, the member shall make a report of suspected child abuse in accordance with law and Board policy.
- E. Safe Schools Incident Reporting
 - a. For Safe Schools reporting purposes, the term incident means an instance involving an act of violence; the possession of a weapon; the possession, use, or sale of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia as defined in the Pennsylvania Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act; the possession, use, or sale of alcohol or tobacco; or conduct that constitutes an offense listed under the Safe Schools Act.
 - b. When a reported threat also meets the definition of an incident under the Safe Schools Act, in accordance with reporting requirements, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately report required incidents, if not previously reported by district staff, and may report discretionary incidents committed by students on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies.
 - c. The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian, if not previously notified by district staff, of any student directly involved in an incident on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity, who is a victim or suspect, immediately, as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee will inform the parent/guardian whether the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee will document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.

IV. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

- A. The Superintendent or designee, in consultation with the School Safety and Security Coordinator, shall appoint individuals to a district threat assessment team.
- B. The Superintendent or designee shall designate a member of the team as team leader for the threat assessment team.
- C. The threat assessment team shall include the School Safety and Security Coordinator and individuals with expertise in school health; counseling, school psychology or social work; special education and school administration.
- D. The Superintendent or designee may assign additional staff members or designated community resources to the threat assessment team for assessment and response support.
- E. The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement administrative regulations to support the threat assessment process and ensure compliance with law and Board policy.

V. REFERENCES

24 P.S. 1302-E
24 P.S. 1301-E
Pol. 832
Pol. 236
Pol. 805.2
Pol. 805
Pol. 819

Pol. 103
Pol. 113.4
Pol. 207
Pol. 216
Pol. 146.1
24 P.S. 1205.2
24 P.S. 1205.5
24 P.S. 1310-B
Pol. 333
Pol. 104
Pol. 105.1
Pol. 249
Pol. 805.1
23 Pa. C.S.A. 6311
Pol. 806
Pol. 247
Pol. 252
Pol. 226
Pol. 103.1
Pol. 113
Pol. 113.1
Pol. 113.2
Pol. 113.3
Pol. 146
Pol. 218
Pol. 218.1
Pol. 218.2
Pol. 233
Pol. 709
24 P.S. 1303-A
22 PA Code 10.2
35 P.S. 780-102
24 P.S. 1302.1-A
22 PA Code 10.21
22 PA Code 10.22
22 PA Code 10.25
20 U.S.C. 1232g
20 U.S.C. 1415
34 CFR Part 99
34 CFR Part 300
24 P.S. 1409
Pol. 209
Pol. 216.1
24 P.S. 1304-A
24 P.S. 1305-A
24 P.S. 1307-A
42 Pa. C.S.A. 6341
Pol. 218.3
24 P.S. 1304-D
22 PA Code 12.12
42 Pa. C.S.A. 5945

42 Pa. C.S.A. 8337

42 CFR Part 2

24 P.S. 1309-B

20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq

35 P.S. 7601 et seq

Pol. 203.1

PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency, School Safety and Security Committee Model K-12
Threat Assessment Procedures and Guidelines