



PROCEDURE

SO-029

VIOLENCE THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION

Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Education, Safe and Inclusive Schools	Initial Effective Date: 2019/05/27
Last Updated: 2025/06/06	Next Review Date: 2029/06/06

Purpose:

To respond to all student behaviours that pose a potential risk to self, other students, employees, and members of the school community as determined through the Violence Threat Risk Assessment and Intervention (VTRA) Protocol.

Guiding Principles:

- 1.0 The assessment of violence, threat and risk is a team approach to identify, evaluate and address potential threats from students toward themselves, other students, employees and parents/caregivers within the school and community environment
- 2.0 A multi-disciplinary assessment of student behaviour may involve police and other community partners to help determine whether a student is moving on a pathway towards violence against self or others, and creates an opportunity to intervene to decrease the risk identified
- 3.0 Through development of an individualized intervention plan, the underlying issues that contribute to high-risk behaviour can be addressed
- 4.0 Where a high risk is identified, a student may require further assessment from community professionals, including, but not limited to, child protection agencies and medical practitioners
- 5.0 **High-Risk Behaviour: When to Enact the Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol:**
 - 5.1. Student behaviour that poses a threat or risk to self or others can present in a variety of ways. Examples of high-risk behaviours include, but are not limited to:
 - Serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill
 - Indicators of suicidal ideation as it relates to fluidity (both homicidal and suicidal)
 - Clear, direct and plausible threats to kill others
 - Use of technology to communicate threats to harm/kill others or cause property damage
 - Possession of weapons, including replicas
 - Bomb threats (making and/or detonating explosive devices)
 - Fire setting
 - Sexual intimidation or assault
 - Ongoing issues with bullying and/or harassment
 - Gang-related intimidation and violence
 - Hate incidents motivated by factors including, but not limited to, race, culture, religion, and/or sexual orientation
 - Rehearsal behaviours or evidence of planning an attack
 - 5.2. Students who have experienced ongoing harassment and/or bullying, including cyber-bullying, or students who have a history of perceived victimization, may pose a risk to safety and could be considered for a risk assessment.

- 5.3. All behaviours that may pose a risk or threat to others are to be reported to the Administrator(s). This includes the behaviour of students, employees or community members.

6.0 VTRA Steps

- 6.1. The process of implementing a threat and risk assessment protocol ensures that potentially high-risk behaviour of students is properly assessed and supportive intervention plans put in place. The following steps are fully developed within the *School and Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment and Intervention Protocol (2018)*
- i. Make sure all students are safe and call the police (911)
 - ii. Determine if the student making the threat has access to the means (knife, gun, etc.) of the threat.
 - iii. Interview witnesses, including all participants directly and indirectly involved.
 - iv. Notify the parent(s)/caregiver(s) of all students involved, unless the student is 18 (or is 16 or 17 and has withdrawn from parental control).
 - v. Initiate data collection with Violence Threat Assessment Team members.
 - vi. Review findings with the Violence Threat Assessment Team.
 - vii. Decide on a course of action
 - viii. Develop an intervention plan

Definitions:

Threat assessment is the process of determining if a student actually poses a risk to the person(s) they have threatened. A threat is when a person utters, writes or communicates through technology a threat to harm or kill a person or persons. Typically, threat assessment occurs within a few hours of a threat being made. The timeliness of information gathering is essential and includes input from the student, family, peers, school employees, and the community agencies that may have access to information relevant to the threat being made.

Risk assessment is the process of determining if a student of concern may pose a risk to self (e.g., suicide) or risk to some person(s) at some unknown period of time. Typically, risk assessment is a lengthier process that may involve a number of assessments, tests and measures beyond the scope of the school-based multi-disciplinary team. Consultation with the school social worker is required in order to request a risk assessment for a student.

Reference(s):

- *School and Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment and Intervention Protocol (2018)*