

Student Threat Assessment: Fair Notice and Process

SD83(North Okanagan-Shuswap) is committed to creating and maintaining school environments in which students, staff, parents and others feel safe. Schools cannot ignore any threat of violence. This represents 'fair notice' to our communities that SD#8 will address all threats to self and/or to others.



The model presented in this document reflects the process and guidelines recommended by the North American Centre for Threat Assessment & Trauma Response and Safer Schools Together.



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What can students, staff, parents and community members do?

- Listen to children and youth when they express concerns;
- Talk to your child to understand what's happening;
- Talk to your child's teacher and or school principal;
- Report any threat making behavior to any member of the threat assessment team (Principal, MCFD, CYMH, Police) or, if immediate danger, call the RCMP.
- Check out the www.erasebullying.ca website for parent and community resources.



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Student Violence/ Threat Risk Assessment



School District No. 83
(North Okanagan-Shuswap)

Student Violence

What behaviors warrant a Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment to be initiated?

A Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment will be initiated when behaviors include, among other activities:

- serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill self or others, verbal/written threats to harm or kill others,
- Internet website/social media threats to harm or kill others, possession of weapons (including replicas), bomb threats and fire setting.

Duty to Report

To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents, students and community members must report all threat related behaviors.

Schools in SD83 will take all threats seriously and work collaboratively with the VTRA team to create effective intervention strategies for safety of all.

What is a Threat?

- an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something;
- may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet or made by gesture.

Threat/Risk Assessment

What is a Violence Threat/Risk Assessment Team?

- Each school has a multi-disciplinary Violence Threat/Risk Assessment Team.
- The team may include the Director of Instruction, District Behavior Consultant, School Principal and/or Vice-Principal, School District Psychologist, School Counselor, RCMP, MCFD worker, Mental Health Worker, RCMP and others.
- It is important for all parties to engage in the Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment process.
- If for some reason there is reluctance to participate in the process, by the threat-maker or parent/guardian, the threat assessment process will still continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning environment for all.

Collection Notice

- The School District is subject to personal information privacy laws and will undertake the collection of this information in compliance with the requirements of such laws, including by limiting collection to information that is relevant and necessary to address a risk or threat, and by ensuring that information is collected from on line sources is only obtained from open source sites.
- The School District will not collect information as part of a threat assessment unless there is reason to believe that a risk exists.
- Information collected as part of a threat assessment may be provided to law enforcement authorities in appropriate circumstances.

Fair Notice and Process

The purposes of a Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment are:

- to ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and others
- to ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat
- to begin to understand the factors that contribute to the threat-maker's behaviour
- to be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat-maker
- to promote the emotional and physical safety of all.

What happens in a Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment?

The process of a Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment:

- all threat making behavior(s) by a student(s) shall be reported to the principal, who will activate the SD83 VTRA protocol;
- Interviews will be held with the student(s), the threat-maker, parents and staff to determine the level of risk and develop an appropriate response to the incident;
- Intervention plans will be then be developed to mitigate further risk.

