



Training School Community School Safety Threat Assessment

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Training Overview

The purpose of this presentation is to share information with members of our school community about school safety and threat assessment procedures.

Act 18 of 2019

Act 18 of 2019 amended the Public School Code of 1949 by adding Article XIII-E, Threat Assessment.

Among its provisions, Article XIII-E requires the establishment of threat assessment teams for all school entities in Pennsylvania and tasks the School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC) to research, develop and provide free threat assessment guidelines, training and informational materials, as well as model procedures and guidelines for school entities.

Policy

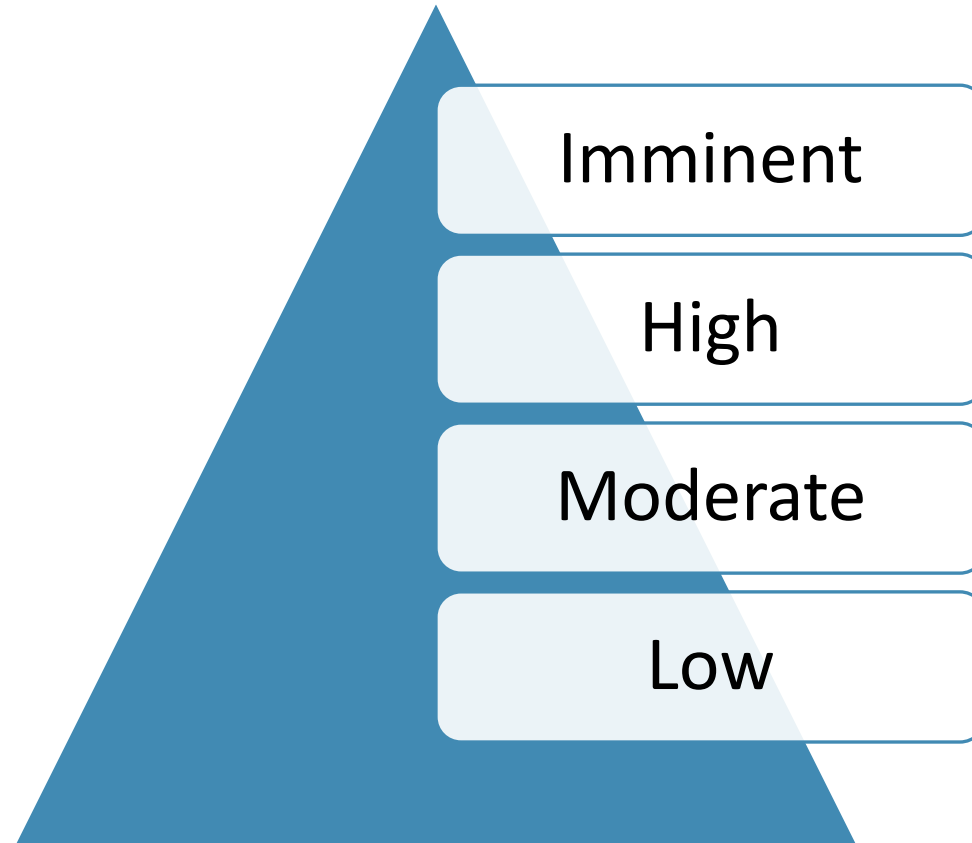
WCSD Policy

- Policy 10510 Discipline Code
- Policy 10930 Behavior Management
 - 10930-001 Physical Restraint
 - 10930-002 Calming Room
 - 10930-003 Threat Assessment
 - 10930-004 Positive Behavior Support Plan
 - 10930-005 Functional Behavior Assessment
- Policy 10970 Suicide Awareness, Prevention, and Response
- Policy 11120 Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities

Definition of Threat

“Threat” shall mean communication or behavior that indicates an individual poses a danger to the safety of school staff or students through acts of violence or other behavior that would cause harm to self or others. The threat may be expressed/communicated behaviorally, orally, visually, in writing, electronically, or through any other means. These actions can be considered a threat regardless of whether it is observed by or communicated directly to the target of the threat or observed by a third party, and regardless of whether the target of the threat is aware of the threat (10930-003).

Levels of Threat



Levels of Threat

Low Risk

- “Transient Threat” shall mean the individual/situation does not appear to pose a threat of violence or serious harm to self/others, and any exhibited issues/concerns can be easily resolved.

Moderate Risk

- “Serious Substantive Threat” shall mean an individual/situation does not appear to pose a threat of violence or serious harm to self/others at this time but exhibits behaviors that indicate a continuing intent and potential for future violence or serious harm to self/others; and/or exhibits other concerning behavior that requires intervention.
- Threats involving a simple assault, or a fight are classified as “serious substantive” and resolved at this point.

Levels of Threat – High Risk

High Risk

- “Very Serious Substantive Threat” shall mean an individual/situation appears to pose a clear and immediate threat of serious violence toward others that requires containment and action to protect identified or identifiable target(s); and may also exhibit other concerning behavior that requires intervention.
 - A “very serious substantive threat” threat typically involves a threat to kill or a threat to use a lethal weapon or inflict severe bodily injury on someone and **may** require referral to law enforcement.
- “Imminent Threat” shall mean a danger that is real, would occur within an immediate time frame, and could result in serious bodily harm. An individual/situation poses a significant risk to the health or safety of themselves and/or others that cannot be eliminated by a modification of policies, practices, or procedures, or by the provision of auxiliary aids or services. The direct threat standard applies when the Threat Assessment Team or school entity administration determines that an individual/situation poses a direct threat and that applicable disciplinary procedures are not available or sufficient to mitigate the threat. **CALL 911**

Definition of Threat Assessment

“Threat Assessment” shall mean 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.

Threat Assessment

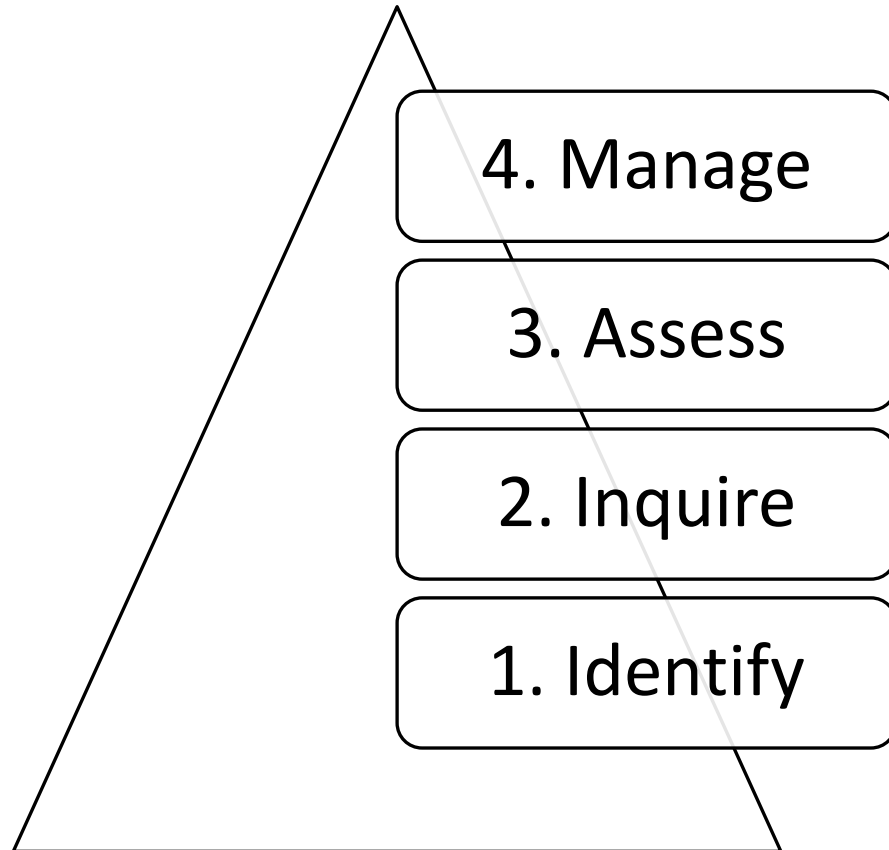
Threat assessment is a prevention strategy.

- School communities work together to identify student threats before they become acts of violence.
- Schools have systems in place to process information.
- Students receive assistance through early identification.

Threat Assessment

Threat Assessment IS	Threat Assessment is NOT
A fact-based, investigative approach to determining how likely a person is to carry out a threat of violence.	A simple checklist of warning signs or red flags used to remove a student from school.
A means to identify, assess, and manage individuals who are at risk for violence against themselves or others.	A means to label a student as a troublemaker and enact consequences.
A way to identify someone who has the potential for violence in many forms – self-harm, assault, risk-taking behaviors, suicide, substance abuse, and other aggressive or dangerous behaviors.	A means to find “the next school shooter.”
Focused on a given individual(s) as a potential threat, conducted as the need arises (i.e., examines people, not things).	A vulnerability assessment, site survey, or security audit, which focuses on the facility, policies, and procedures, not individuals (i.e., examines things, not people).

Threat Assessment Process



Identify the person or situation whose behavior has raised concern about potential violence.

Inquire/ Ask questions and gather additional relevant information about the person and situation.

Assess the person and situation based on the totality of information that is reasonably available to determine whether the person or situation poses a threat of violence or harm to others and/or self.

Manage the threat by implementing an intervention, supervision, and/or monitoring plan to prevent harm where possible and to reduce/mitigate impact of the situation.

Definition of Threat Assessment Team

“Threat Assessment Team” shall mean a multidisciplinary group of individuals identified by a chief school administrator responsible for the assessment of and intervention with students whose behavior may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community, or others.

Threat Assessment Team

Required Members Article XIII-E	Optional Members
<p>Individuals with expertise in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School health;• Counseling, school psychology, or social work;• Special education; and• School administration.	<p>Other school staff or community resources who can assist with the threat assessment process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School security personnel;• law enforcement agencies;• behavioral health professionals;• individuals receiving reports from the Safe2Say Something Program;• SAP team members; or• juvenile probation professionals.
<p>School Safety and Security Coordinator appointed under section 1309-B or a designee.</p>	
<p>Each team has a designated leader.</p>	

Threat Assessment Team Responsibilities

Awareness,
Educate, and Train

Make informational materials available to students, parents, employees, and community members.

Intake, Assessment,
and Response

Assessing, responding, and making appropriate determinations and referrals based on the information available to the threat assessment team.

Communication and
Reporting

Annual reporting.

Threat Assessment Team Guidance

Each school entity is responsible for developing procedures and guidelines that meet the needs of their school community.

Guidance includes coordination between the threat assessment team and other school-based teams and information about the following topics;

- Confidentiality, privacy and consent;
- Considerations for students with disabilities; and
- Considerations for SAP teams.

Threat Assessment Team Confidentiality

Disclosure of school records - the following shall apply:

- School records or documentation developed or maintained by a threat assessment team shall not be subject to the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law.
- The report and information presented to the school entity's board of directors and submitted to the committee under subsection (a)(2)(v) shall not be subject to the Right-to-Know Law.
- School entities shall not be required to report any data on the functioning of the threat assessment team other than specifically required under [Act 18 of 2019](#).

Cooperation – County Agencies

Notwithstanding 42 Pa.C.S. §6352.2 (relating to interagency information sharing), upon a preliminary determination that a student's behavior indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, a threat assessment team may request that the county agency or juvenile probation department consult and cooperate with the team in assessing the student who is the subject of the preliminary determination. The county agency or juvenile probation department shall comply with the team's request except as prohibited by the following:

- 42 Pa.C.S. § 5944 (relating to confidential communications to psychiatrists or licensed psychologists).
- The act of February 13, 1970 (P.L.19, No.10), entitled "An act enabling certain minors to consent to medical, dental and health services, declaring consent unnecessary under certain circumstances."
- The act of July 9, 1976 (P.L.817, No.143), known as the Mental Health Procedures Act.
- The act of November 29, 1990 (P.L.585, No.148), known as the Confidentiality of HIV Related Information Act.
- Federal law, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (Public Law 90-247, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-191, 110 Stat. 1936), and the procedures, limitations and criteria set forth in regulations adopted by the United States Department of Health and Human Services relating to the confidentiality of drug and alcohol treatment records.

Resources

[Commonwealth of PA Department of Human Services](#)

[Commonwealth of PA School Safety](#)

[Prevent Suicide PA](#)

[Safe2Say Something](#)

[WCSD Office of Pupil Services](#)

[WCSD Policy](#)