

# ASSESSING VIOLENCE POTENTIAL OF THREAT MAKING AND HIGH-RISK STUDENT BEHAVIORS

## Background

The Division is committed to providing students, staff and parents with a safe and secure learning environment.

The Division requires that all threats and high-risk behaviors will be assessed and that appropriate interventions and disciplinary actions are taken.

## Procedures

1. Trained multidisciplinary teams at both the school and Division level will use this procedure when responding to threat making and high-risk behaviors.
2. Each principal is to review this threat assessment procedure with all staff and students at the beginning of each school year as well as with the School Council, and with parents/guardians through the school newsletter in order to provide “fair notice” that each threat will be taken seriously.
3. Students and staff who become aware of a threat are to inform the principal immediately.
4. The principal is expected to secure the school environment by detaining students involved in a threatening or violent situation, notifying parents/guardians, implementing the school discipline policy as appropriate to the situation or by taking any other immediate action deemed necessary to ensure student and staff safety.
5. The principal or trained designate is to be notified of all threats or violent situations and will coordinate the school’s risk/threat assessment procedures.
6. The suspension of students for engaging in threatening or violent acts is not to be a substitute for a thorough threat assessment and intervention plan; however, suspension may be used as an interim intervention as the threat assessment is conducted and, within the guidelines of the suspension procedure, until such time as an adequate intervention plan can be implemented as appropriate.
7. Student Threat Assessment Teams may be notified to assess intervention needs, based on the level of the threat, consult with outside experts, and provide intervention.
8. When the threat assessment protocol is activated, a designated Student Threat Assessment Team member will notify parents/guardians. Whenever possible, parents are to be an integral part of the risk assessment process.



9. The Division Student Threat Assessment Team will meet to review the incident, assess the threat intervention needs, and make recommendations for intervention planning to the principal for action and the Superintendent for information.
10. The resulting assessment report and recommendations represent the collective opinion of the whole team rather than any one individual member of the team.
11. Principals are to report all threats involving threat assessment procedures to the Superintendent, outlining the incident, the assessed threat level, actions and interventions taken and planned.
12. Communication with the media will be done solely through the Office of the Superintendent.

References: Preamble, Sections 1, 8, 12, 18, 20, 22, 24, 27, 45, 60, 123, 124, 125, School Act  
Student Record Regulation A.R. 71/99  
Alberta Education Policy 3.4.1: Review by the Minister  
Alberta Education Policy 2.1.5: Teacher Growth, Supervision, and Evaluation  
Teaching Quality Standard (Ministerial Order 016/97)  
Basic Education in Alberta (Ministerial Order 004/98)  
Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12  
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms  
Individual's Rights Protection Act  
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act  
A Safe Place: Creating Peaceful Schools (1994)  
A.T.A. Code of Professional Conduct

