

BEHAVIORAL THREAT ASSESSMENT

Stillwater Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for students and staff. This policy establishes a school behavioral threat assessment (BTA) and management program to conduct a fact-based, systematic process designed to gather information about, assess and manage behavior or communication that raises a concern that a person or situation may pose a threat of severe and significant targeted violence against the school community.

Oklahoma law requires an officer or employee of a school district or member of a board of education to notify law enforcement of any verbal threat or act of threatening behavior which reasonably may have the potential to endanger students, school personnel or school property. School district officers or employees of a school district or members of a board of education shall be immune from employment discipline and any civil liability for communicating information in good faith if they reasonably believe a person is making verbal threats or is exhibiting threatening behavior. This report requirement is separate from and should be made prior to the Threat Assessment Team meeting.

Nothing in this policy precludes school personnel from acting immediately to address an imminent threat, including immediately removing a student from school, subject to subsequent due process procedures when the student poses an immediate threat to themselves, others, property, or the educational environment.

The threat assessment process is distinct from and does not supplant the student discipline policy. A behavioral threat assessment will not impose suspension solely for investigating student conduct or conducting a threat assessment. Any action that could result in removal of a student from the student's school environment pending or after a threat assessment will only be carried out in accordance with state and federal law applicable to students with disabilities.

Threat assessment is not intended to refer students to the criminal justice system, but to facilitate the provision of resources and support to a student and to mitigate potential acts of violence. Law enforcement referral is not appropriate in the case of student behavior that is a violation of the school conduct code but that is not also a crime.

This policy applies to all students, staff, and visitors. The policy applies to threats made verbally, in writing, electronically, or through behavior that may indicate a risk of violence or self-harm.

Definitions

Threatening Behavior: Any verbal threat or threatening behavior, whether or not it is directed at another person, which indicates potential for future harm to students, school personnel or school property.

Threat Assessment Team (TAT): A multidisciplinary team tasked with evaluating and managing threats, which may include administrators, counselors, psychologists, law enforcement representatives, and other relevant staff.

Imminent Threat: A threat judged to be immediate or likely to occur in the near future.

Non-Imminent Threat: A threat that is concerning but does not indicate immediate danger.

The Threat Assessment Team shall consist of the principal, school counselor, school security personnel and a teacher or employee familiar with the student. The principal shall oversee the implementation, coordinate meetings, and communicate with the parent/guardians of the student involved. The Threat Assessment Team will assess any threat that is reported to determine severity and any needed interventions.

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Information related to threat assessments will be kept confidential and disclosed only to individuals with a legitimate educational or safety interest, consistent with applicable law.

Staff shall receive annual training on recognizing warning signs, reporting procedures, and threat assessment protocols.

The Threat Assessment Team shall maintain secure records of all assessments. This policy shall be reviewed annually by the school board or as needed to ensure effectiveness and compliance with state and federal law.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 70 O.S. Section 24-100.8.