BEHAVIORAL THREAT ASSESSMENT

A Guide for Schools



- Youth violence is preventable.
- People who hurt themselves or others, typically show warning signs before they carry out an act of violence.
- Behavioral threat assessment assesses threats of potentially harmful or lethal behavior and determines the level of concern and what actions or next steps are required. Resources and strategies are organized to manage situations involving people that pose threats to others and the overall goal is to prevent violence, promote inclusivity, connect with kids, and maintain a sense of psychological safety within the community.

KNOW THE SIGNS

Behavioral Indicators

- A shift towards a threat of extreme aggression or violence
- Threatening communications suggesting a potential violent attack (e.g., planning details, ongoing consideration of an attack)
- Indications of a specific target, or targets
- Indications of a motive, goal, or justification for a serious attack
- Indications of behavior that increase the possibility of violence occurring (e.g. a plan, acquiring /attempting to acquire or researching weapons, rehearsing the event, scheduling the attack)
- Actions and behaviors are consistent with communication- threats are accompanied with behaviors, motives, target, etc.
- Peer collaboration (Peers aware of or concerned about attack or recruiting peers or peer encouragement)
- Expressing thoughts of harming self or others
- Direct threats to others/place/selves, expressing a threat as a plan

Other Possible Signs

- Indications of suicidal thoughts
- Emotional coping reserves decreasing/low
- Sudden withdrawal from friends, family and activities
- Bullying
- Excessive irritability, lack of patience, quick to anger
- Chronic loneliness or social isolation
- Bragging about access to guns or weapons

Possible Life Situations

- Family dysfunction
- Academic failure
- Social crisis
- Suicidal ideation

**While this list of behavioral indicators could serve as a "red flag" for a potential violent incident, not all students who display these behaviors will commit a violent act, and conversely, there is potential for a student to commit a violent act without the presence of these characteristics. Please consult a trained staff member or law enforcement to discuss any concerns. Call 911 immediately if you or anyone else is in imminent danger.

**SK Cascade Student Preventive Threat Assessment & Management System- Risk Indicators*

WHAT TO DO

Connect ••••• Creativity •••••••• Calm •••••••• Choices ••••• Compassion

- Establish ongoing, sincere, and trusting relationships with youth built upon regular, quality communications.
- Be sensitive to the stressors influencing children and provide timely intervention support.
- Be alert for, and promptly respond to issues such as: detachment, withdrawal, threats, disciplinary issues, interests/preoccupation with weapon, bombs, violent forms of "entertainment", abuse of animals, suicide threats or attempts, self-mutilations, etc.
- Talk to children honestly and, if necessary, seek professional help BEFORE a crisis!

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PROCESS

Contact your Threat Assessment Level 1 Site Team.



Team to review and determine if Level 1 assessment is needed.

If Level 1 is needed, complete assessment with Site Team and implement interventions.

If unfounded concern, team completes Triage Closure Documentation Form

*Team to determine if Level 2 assessment is needed. If so, complete assessment.

Maintain safety at **all** levels.



*This process follows the SK Cascade Student Preventive Threat Assessment & Management System. Each district may follow a different process, please work with your administration and threat assessment team to follow the appropriate process for your district.

RESOURCES

If you are concerned, don't wait, reach out now!
It's better to get help early than to wait until there is a crisis.

TRAINING INFO

REPORT CONCERNING BEHAVIORS

ONLINE RESOURCES