

Student Threat Assessment: Fair Notice and Process

SD #8 Kootenay Lake 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 others.



The model presented in this document reflects the thinking and work of J. Kevin Cameron, Director of the North American Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response and Safer Schools Together.

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

Listen to children and youth

Talk to your child

Talk to your child's teacher
and administration

Take action

Report any threat making
behavior to any member of
the Threat Assessment team
(Principal, MCFD, MH, Police)
or, if immediate danger, call
the RCMP or Nelson City
Police

Check out the

www.erasebullying.ca website
for parent and community
resources

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Student Violence/ Threat Risk Assessment



Student Violence

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

A Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment will be initiated when behaviours 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 behaviours. Every threat must be taken seriously, thoroughly investigated and a response and follow through completed.

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.

Threats must be taken seriously, investigated and responded to. Schools in SD#8 Kootenay Lake will take all threats seriously and work collaboratively with the VTRA team to create effective intervention strategies for safety of all.

Threat/Risk Assessment: Fair



What is a Violence Threat/Risk Assessment team?

Each school has a multi-disciplinary Violence Threat/Risk Assessment Team. The team may include the Safe Schools Coordinator, school Principal and/or Vice-Principal, School District Psychologist, School Counsellor, RCMP, MCFD worker, Mental Health Worker, Nelson Police Department 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

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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-makers' 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 behaviour(s) by a student(s) shall be reported to the principal, who will activate the SD8 Kootenay Lake 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 developed.

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 online source 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.