

STUDENT VIOLENCE THREAT /RISK ASSESSMENT - FAIR NOTICE

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

A Student Violence Threat /Risk Assessment will be initiated when behaviours include:

- serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill, verbal / written threats to harm or kill others, Internet website/online chat, texting/sexting threats to harm or kill others, possession of weapons (including replicas), bomb threat, and fire setting.

Duty to Report

To keep school safe and caring, staff, parents, and community members must report all threat related behaviours to the principal and/or the appropriate authority – usually the RCMP. Threats will be taken seriously, investigated, and responded to.

Zero Tolerance

Schools in Richmond have zero tolerance for not responding to serious violence or threatening behaviours. Staff who become aware of concerning behaviours consistent with what is noted in this document are expected to report this information to the principal and/or authorities as outlined in policy (eg. policy 405.7-R "*Child Abuse / Neglect*" and *School and Safety Response Plan – Staff Guidelines* – Richmond School District 2008).

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 technologically, or made by gesture.

What is a Violence Threat / Risk Assessment?

When the aforementioned situations become known, a multi-disciplinary Violence Threat/Risk Assessment will be conducted. Typically this will include school-based administration, School District personnel, the RCMP and its related services, and mental health or addictions clinicians. Other professionals such as the Ministry for Children and Families and physicians are consulted depending on specific circumstances.

If there is reluctance to participate in the process by the threat maker or parent/guardian, the threat assessment process will still be conducted in order to do what is possible to maintain a safe and caring learning environment for all.

What is the purpose of a Student Violence Threat / Risk Assessment?

The purposes of a Student Violence Threat / Risk Assessment are to:

- maintain and promote a safe environment for students, staff, parents, and others
- maximize people's ability to have a full understanding of the context of the threat
- better understand the factors that may be contributing to the threat maker's behaviour
- proactively develop an intervention plan that will help address the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker

What happens in a Violence Threat / Risk Assessment?

All threat making behaviour(s) by a student shall be reported to the principal who in turn will follow the guidelines outlined in Richmond's *Threat Assessment Protocol and Procedures*. Working collaboratively with those previously identified (*What is a Violence Threat / Risk Assessment?*), a process begins to gather pertinent information from various sources in order to best understand the situation and respond accordingly.

Staff and student safety is paramount. If there is reason to believe that a situation presents serious and imminent risk, an immediate call is made to 911.