Southeast Kootenay School District
Student Behaviour and Digital Threat Assessment

Fair Notice and Process

Student safety is a priority in School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay). To help keep our students and staff safe, we are part of a regional protocol that governs our plans for responding to situations where we believe students may be posing a threat to themselves or others. This Violence Threat/ Risk Assessment Protocol is signed by all regional school districts, as well as the RCMP and the Ministry of Child and Family Development. Many of our district and school personnel are trained to be on Threat Assessment Teams and have experience in behavioural and digital threat assessments.

What Behaviours Warrant the Initiation of a Threat Assessment?

A threat assessment will be initiated for behaviours including, but not limited to: serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill; verbal or written threats to harm or kill others; online threats to harm or kill others; possession of weapons (including replicas); bomb threats (making and/or detonating explosive devices); fire setting; sexual intimidation or assault; and gang-related intimidation and violence.

As part of the threat assessment, a search of publicly accessible online and digital platforms may be conducted by members of the Threat Assessment Team.

Duty to Report

To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents/guardians, students, and community members must report all threat-related behaviours.

What Is a Threat?

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on social media platforms, or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated, and responded to.

What Is a Threat Assessment Team?

Each school has a Threat Assessment Team. The team may include the principal, teachers, counsellor(s), and a member of the local police agency. There is also a District Team, led by the Safe School Coordinator, that coordinates and supports school-based teams.

What Is the Purpose of a Threat Assessment?

The purposes of a threat assessment are:

- To ensure the safety of students, staff, parents, and others.

- To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat.
- To understand factors contributing to the subject of concern's behaviour.
- To be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the subject of concern.
- To promote the emotional and physical safety of all.

What Happens in a Threat Assessment?

All threat-making behaviour by a student shall be reported to the principal, who will activate the threat assessment process for the initial response. Once the team has been activated, interviews may be conducted with the student(s), the subject of concern, parents, and staff to determine the level of risk and to develop an appropriate response to the incident. Intervention plans will be developed and shared with parents/guardians, staff, and students as required.

Can I Refuse to Participate in a Threat Assessment Process?

It is important for all parties to engage in the process. However, if the subject of concern or the parent/guardian is reluctant to participate, the threat assessment process will continue in order to promote a safe and caring learning environment.

Collection Notice

Schools and school districts are subject to personal information privacy laws and will undertake the collection of information in compliance with the requirements of those laws. This includes limiting the collection to information that is relevant and necessary to address a risk or threat, and ensuring that information collected from an online source is obtained only from open-source sites.

Schools and school districts 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 police agencies in appropriate circumstances. Information collected will be retained and handled in accordance with current records management procedures and guidelines.