

The Horizon School Division is committed to creating and maintaining safe and caring school environments in which students, staff, parents, and others feel safe. Any threat of violence will not be tolerated by Horizon School Division schools.

Student Threat Assessment

Fair Notice and Process



horizon⁺
school division

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Student Threat Assessment:



What behaviours initiate a Student Threat Assessment?

A Student Threat Assessment will be initiated when behaviours include, but are not limited to: serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill, verbal/written threats to harm/kill others, Social Media/Technology generated threats to harm/kill others, hate incidents motivated by factors including, but not limited to, race, culture, religion and/or sexual and gender diversity, possession of weapons (any object that is used, or intended to be used, to threaten or harm another person, including replicas), bomb threats and fire setting.

Duty to Report

Often when we hear in the media about a violent incident, we learn that the individual of concern had made threats in advance of acting violently. To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents, students, and community members all need to act responsibly and report all threat-related behaviours and high-risk activities.

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 the Internet or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated, and responded to appropriately.



Horizon School Division Policy link:

<http://horizon.ab.ca/documents/general/IFC.pdf>

Go to www.horizon.ab.ca Click on “Board”. Click on “Policy Manual.” Click on “I-Students.” Scroll down to policy code IFCI and click on this link to view the Threat Assessment Protocol.

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What is a Threat Assessment Team?

A threat assessment team is a multi-disciplinary group of people which may include the Clinical Team Leader (CTL)/Psychologist, Principal, Family School Liaison Counsellor (FSLC) and Police. Other individuals may be included on this team as necessary.

What is the purpose of a Student Threat Assessment?

The purpose of a Student Threat Assessment is to complete an Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO) in all cases where students make threats to harm others to:

- Ensure the safety of students, staff, parents, and others.
- Ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat.
- Begin to understand the factors that contribute to the individual of concerns' behaviour.
- Be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the individual of concern.
- Promote the emotional and physical safety of all.

What happens in a Student Threat Assessment?

The Process:

- All threat making behaviour(s) by a student(s) shall be reported to the principal who will activate the protocol for the initial response.
- Once the multi-disciplinary team has been activated, interviews may 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.
- As part of the threat assessment process, information will be collected from online sources and obtained from open-source sites.
- Intervention plans will be developed and shared with parents, staff and students as required.

If you have further questions, please contact our Threat Assessment Leader (CTL) Angela Miller at 403-634-9767



Can I refuse to be a part of the Student Threat Assessment process?

It is important for all parties to engage in the process. However, if for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process, by the individual of concern or parent/guardian, the threat assessment process will continue in order to ensure and restore a safe and inclusive learning environment for all.

Horizon School Division

Mission Statement:

Engaging and Empowering all Learners.

Statement of Values

Horizon is a learning community that values

- continual improvement
- inclusion and respecting diversity
- fostering effective relationships
- welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environments
- collaboration
- accountability

Vision

Students will gain the knowledge and skills to be contributing citizens and the desire to develop as life-long learners.



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