

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Guidelines for Threat Assessment & Management Process

There are many factors that may serve as indicators of potentially violent behavior. These are some examples of indicators that teachers, administrators and other school employees may consider when evaluating a student's behavior for threat assessment purposes. This is not an exhaustive list. Also, the existence of one or more of these factors does not automatically warrant a threat assessment. However, under certain circumstances, one factor alone may be sufficient. Attention should be given to students/employees who exhibit *extreme and/or persistent* inappropriate or disturbing behavior. Quick action must be taken when indicators suggest that there is an immediate threat of physical harm.

TEACHER AND SCHOOL STAFF: *Factors to consider whether a student poses a threat.*
All concerns should be discussed with site administrator.

Social*

- ☐ Feelings of being picked on and persecuted
- ☐ Excessive feelings of isolation and being alone
- ☐ Excessive feelings of rejection
- ☐ Intolerance for differences
- ☐ Background of abuse or dependency on drugs or alcohol
- ☐ Involved with a gang or an antisocial group on the fringe of peer acceptance
- ☐ Characteristically resorts to name calling, cursing, or abusive language
- ☐ Habitually makes violent threats when angry
- ☐ Preoccupation with weapons, explosives or other incendiary devices
- ☐ Displays cruelty to animals
- ☐ Victim of bullying and/or bullies or intimidates peers or younger children
- ☐ Patterns of impulsive hitting, intimidating and bullying behavior
- ☐ Blames others for difficulties they cause themselves
- ☐ Consistently prefers TV shows, movies or music expressing violent themes or acts
- ☐ Prefers reading materials dealing with violent themes, rituals, and abuse

School History*

- ☐ History of discipline problems at school and in community
- ☐ Past history of violent behaviors
- ☐ Previously truant, suspended or expelled from school
- ☐ Low school interest & poor academic performance
- ☐ Previously brought a weapon to school

Verbal / Non-Verbal*

- ☐ Expression of violence in writings and drawings
- ☐ Often depressed and/or has significant mood swings
- ☐ Threatened or attempted suicide

Home Factors*

- ☐ Little or no supervision and support from parents or a caring adult
- ☐ Witnessed or been a victim of abuse or neglect in the home

* Sources: Early Warning Signs U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Secret Service, National School Safety Center, and Jane's School Safety Handbook, 2nd edition.

NOTIFY

SITE ADMINISTRATOR

Assesses referral for immediate action

REFER TO

LOCAL SCHOOL THREAT ASSESSMENT / MANAGEMENT TEAM

School Administrator, Health and Human Services personnel and School Police officer
Assess information for short- or long-term plan of action

NOTIFY

LOCAL DISTRICT OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

LOCAL SCHOOL THREAT ASSESSMENT / MANAGEMENT TEAM GUIDELINES

DIRECT THREAT

(Firearms, weapons, explosives, detailed threat/plan, suicide threat/plan, etc.)

Teacher

- ☐ Follow school procedures for life threatening situations
- ☐ Notify the site administrator/main office for immediate help (by phone or confidential note)

Administrator

- ☐ Call 911 for life threatening situations
- ☐ Call School Police (213) 625-6631
- ☐ Notify Local District Operations Coordinator
- ☐ Convene Threat Assessment Team members (An administrator, a mental health professional, i.e., psychiatric social worker, counselor, psychologist or pupil services and attendance counselor, and law enforcement officer)

INDIRECT THREAT

(general statement, "joke," insufficient evidence to determine immediate threat)

Teacher

- ☐ Notify the site administrator

Administrator

- ☐ Notify Local District Operations Coordinator
- ☐ Notify Threat Assessment Team members (An administrator, a mental health professional, i.e., psychiatric social worker, counselor, psychologist or pupil services and attendance counselor, and law enforcement officer)
- ☐ Identify Team Leader to assess this incident

Threat Assessment Team Leader

- ☐ Conduct initial interviews with subject(s) under consideration
- ☐ Review Threat Assessment Indicators
- ☐ Convene needed members and resources and notify site administrator

LOCAL SCHOOL THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- ☐ Review warning signs, background information
- ☐ Interview witnesses, staff, peers, etc.
- ☐ Assess stability factors and potential precipitating events
- ☐ Develop an intervention plan for the student making the threat and for students who have been threatened
- ☐ Notify parent/guardian
- ☐ Implement the intervention plan
- ☐ Monitor progress toward reestablishing school safety and reconvene the team when necessary
- ☐ Complete and fax Incident Report to Local District Operations Coordinator

REVIEW BACKGROUND AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

(Protect Subject Confidentiality Wherever Possible)

- ☐ Student Identification (ID01)
- ☐ Emergency Card
- ☐ Health Record (with Nurse's interpretation)
- ☐ Social Adjustment/Progressive Discipline Record, SST, and IMPACT
- ☐ Attendance record
- ☐ Review Cumulative Record information including IEP, court orders, and other legal documents
- ☐ Interview: student, student's friends, associates, teachers, staff, etc.
- ☐ Most recent report card/progress report and current class schedule
- ☐ Student work (essays, journals, artwork, assignments, web pages, etc.)