

Caution Note: It is important to note that Threat Assessment should not be confused with a Risk Assessment which is a more comprehensive risk evaluation (days to weeks) and involves longer-term treatment planning

Risk vs. Threat Assessment

Note:

Although the purpose of Threat Assessment is to assess the risk of a threat, it must be noted that assessing risk in the absence of threat is a highly involved process that includes testing and other measures that are beyond the scope of multi disciplinary Threat Assessment Team.

Definition of Risk Assessment

Note:

After the “initial level of risk” is assessed and “immediate risk reducing interventions” have occurred a further risk assessment may be required.

A Risk Assessment is:

- A process of determining if a student of concern may pose a further risk to some target or targets or a risk to some unknown target or targets at some unknown period of time. (The student may be increasing in violent ideation or behaviours either in frequency or intensity, or both-indicating their **violence potential** may be escalating)
- In most cases, the student has not threatened to kill a direct target
- A more comprehensive evaluation of all risk reducing and risk enhancing factors affecting the student
- Determines longer term intervention and treatment goals

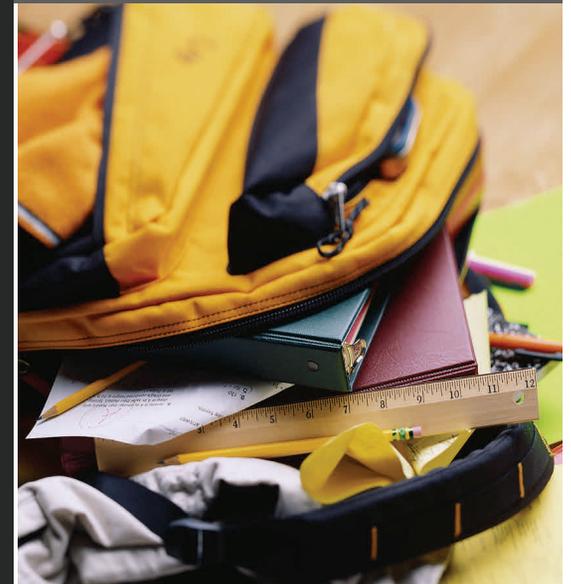
The Mission of the York Catholic District School Board

We are a Catholic Learning Community of collaborative partners, called to serve one another by being committed to and accountable for quality learning by all with Jesus as our inspiration.



Student Threat Assessment

Fair Notice and Process



York Catholic District School Board is committed to creating and maintaining school environments in which students, staff, parents and others feel safe. Schools cannot ignore any threat of violence.

Student Threat Assessment: Fair Notice and Process



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, Internet website/MSN threats to harm/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.

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.

(York Region Police Protocol)

What is a Threat Assessment Team?

Each school has a Threat Assessment Team which is multi-disciplinary. The team may include Principal, Vice-Principal, School Behaviour Resource, School Psychologist, Guidance Counsellor and Police.

What is the purpose of a Student Threat Assessment?

The purposes of a Student 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 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 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 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.

Intervention plans will be developed and shared with parents, staff and the student(s) as required.

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 threat maker or parent/guardian, the threat assessment process will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning environment for all.