

PROTOCOL FOR RESPONDING TO STUDENT THREAT-MAKING BEHAVIOURS

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

River East Transcona School Division believes that all staff, parents and students have a responsibility to maintain a safe, caring and respectful environment. All threats to students and staff are taken seriously. Therefore, the division will respond to threat-making behaviours.

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, digital or made by gesture only and may be direct, indirect, conditional, or veiled. All threats shall be taken seriously and evaluated.

FAIR NOTICE AND THREAT ASSESSMENT

The ***Fair Notice*** statement is located in River East Transcona School Division's Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct serves as fair notice that incidents of threat to self-harm or to harm others will be actively investigated. Because of the serious nature of such incidents, the investigation will continue even if the parent/legal guardian cannot immediately be contacted. Continued efforts will be made to contact the parent/legal guardian.

VIOLENCE THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT

The purpose of the Violence Threat Risk Assessment process is to use the best knowledge, skill and experience available to assess high-risk threatening behaviours so that appropriate interventions can be identified to protect individuals from harm and ensure a climate of safety in schools and the community. In the event that such a situation arises, the resulting investigation will be extensive in scope and may include the involvement of agencies such as clinical services, the police and others.

Any student who poses a high risk to self-harm or who threatens harm to others will undergo an intense investigation. All high-risk behaviours will be taken seriously and high-risk students will be assessed accordingly.

In the event of a high-risk threat of self-harm or to harm others, it is essential to assess safety, put in place the required interventions, analyze appropriate next steps and determine appropriate consequences.

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SCHOOL-BASED VIOLENCE THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT TEAM

All schools shall identify the members of its school-based Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) team. The principal or designate shall activate the school-based VTRA team in the event of a concerning behaviour or situation involving a potential threat. Members may include but are not limited to:

- principal,
- vice-principal,
- counsellor,
- teacher designate.

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Step 1: Principal or designate receives a report of a concerning behaviour or situation.

Step 2: Principal or designate shall make an initial decision if the behaviour involves:

- worrisome behaviour,
- threat-making behaviour,
- immediate risk situation.

Worrisome Behaviour

Worrisome behaviour refers to behaviour that causes concern for school staff because of its violent theme or content.

The principal or designate shall:

- collect details of the incident;
- activate the school-based VTRA team and complete the Stage 1 VTRA Data Collection form;
- contact the divisional designate for VTRA for consultation;
- notify the parent/legal guardian;
- develop an Intervention Plan;
- report, collect, share and store information in accordance with Regulation JICDAC-R2.

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Threat-Making Behaviour

Threat-making behaviour refers to behaviour that contravenes The Criminal Code of Canada, [Section 264.1 (1)] which states:

Every one commits an offence who, in any manner, knowingly utters, conveys or causes any person to receive a threat (a) to cause death or bodily harm to any person; (b) to burn, destroy or damage real or personal property; or (c) to kill, poison or injure an animal or bird that is the property of any person.

In these situations, the school-based VTRA team will be activated to determine to what degree a threat maker actually poses a risk to the target or targets he or she has threatened.

The principal or designate shall:

- collect details of the incident;
- plan for immediate risk reduction;
- notify the assistant superintendent of student services, or designate;
- activate the members of the school-based VTRA team and complete the Stage 1 VTRA Data Collection form;
- contact the divisional designate for VTRA for consultation;
- notify the police as required;
- notify the parent/legal guardian of the threat maker. Student must be released to the custody of a responsible adult.

The school-based VTRA team shall:

- develop an Intervention Plan which may include a request for a Comprehensive VTRA;
- complete a Manitoba Education and Training Serious Incident Report and forward a copy to the superintendent;
- report, collect, share and store information in accordance with Regulation JICDAC-R2.

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Immediate Risk Situation

Immediate risk situation refers to a threat or situation of concern that appears to pose imminent and serious danger to the safety of a target or targets. In these cases a threat is posed and the matter is one of immediate police intervention and protective school response, not threat assessment.

The principal or designate shall:

- call 911;
- activate school safety protocols (hold and secure, lockdown, evacuation) as necessary;
- inform the superintendents department by telephone;
- activate the members of the school-based VTRA team and complete the Stage 1 VTRA Data Collection form;
- contact the divisional designate for VTRA;
- notify the parent/legal guardian of the threat maker;
- report, collect, share and store information in accordance with Regulation JICDAC-R2.

The school-based VTRA team shall:

- develop an Intervention Plan which may include a request for a Comprehensive VTRA;
- complete a Manitoba Education and Training Serious Incident Report and forward a copy to the superintendent.

Step 3: Principal or designate shall notify and debrief staff regarding actions taken.

COMPREHENSIVE VIOLENCE THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT

The Comprehensive VTRA involves interviews and consultations to determine to what extent the threat maker has the resources, intent and motivation to carry out the threat.

A Comprehensive VTRA may be activated by the assistant superintendent of student services following consultation with the principal or designate. The Comprehensive VTRA shall be conducted by clinical staff in partnership with the school-based VTRA team.

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Recommendations shall be developed jointly by clinical and school staff and communicated to the parent/legal guardian. The findings of the Comprehensive VTRA shall be integrated into the final Intervention Plan and Recommendations. Both clinical and school staff shall be responsible for completing the Comprehensive VTRA report.

Effective Date:	May 20, 2008	Policy
Amended Date:	May 21, 2019	Regulation XXX
Board Motion(s):	176/08; 132/19	Exhibit
Legal/Cross Reference:		
