

Can I refuse to participate?

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

Do other school districts follow the same process?

Our school district is a partner in the St. Albert and Sturgeon Regional Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol. The regional partnership includes school districts, emergency services, and community agencies, all working together for the safety of all children, youths and families.

Link to school district policy:

The information in this brochure summarizes our school district policy. The link below provides further details:

<https://www.sturgeon.ab.ca/division/health-safety>

Our contact information:

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Sturgeon Public Schools

Threat Assessment Fair Notice and Process



Everyone's Safety is a Priority

We are committed to creating and maintaining school environments in which students, staff, parents, and guests feel safe. Schools cannot ignore any threat of violence.

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.

When is a Threat Assessment initiated?

A Threat Assessment will be initiated when behaviour indicates an individual is moving along a pathway of violence. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Serious violence with intent to harm or kill
- Verbal/written threats to harm or kill others
- Internet website/internet threats to harm or kill others
- Possession of weapons (including replicas)
- bomb threats
- Fire setting
- Significant change in baseline behaviour

What is the purpose of a Threat Assessment?

- To ensure the safety of children, youths, staff, parents, and others.
- To ensure a full understanding of 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.

Duty to report

To ensure that school communities are safe and caring learning environments, staff, parents, students, and community members must report all threat related behaviour.

What is a Threat Assessment Team?

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

What happens in a Threat Assessment?

All threat making behaviour(s) by a child/youth(s) shall be reported to the Principal who will activate the protocol for the initial response.

Once the Threat Assessment Team has been activated, interviews may be held with the child/youth(s), the threat makers, parents, and staff to determine the level of risk and development an appropriate response to the incident.

Intervention plans will be developed and shared with parents, staff and child/youth(s) as appropriate