

# Assessment of Risk:

## Fair Notice to students and parents/caregivers

### 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 quickly and effectively.



### Duty to Report

To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents/caregivers, students, and community members must report all student threat-related behaviours to the school Principal/Vice-Principal. The administrators will then initiate an Assessment of Risk with the school's Threat Assessment Team.



### Threat Assessment Team

Each Prairie Spirit school has a Threat Assessment Team that includes the Principal/Vice-Principal, Counsellor and School Resource Officer (police). The team may also include Division leadership as well as community resources from the Ministry of Social Services, RCMP, Ministry of Justice, mental health and other agencies, as needed. Because of our shared understanding and commitment to safety, we are well equipped to intervene and respond to a student in crisis.



### What student behaviours lead to an Assessment of Risk?

An Assessment of Risk process will be initiated due to behaviours like:

- serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill
- verbal/written threats to harm/kill others
- online threats to harm/kill others
- possession of weapons (including replicas)
- bomb threats
- fire settings
- hate motivated violence targeting a particular student/group
- sexual intimidation or assault
- chronic, pervasive, targeted bullying or harassment
- gang-related intimidation and violence

### Assessment of Risk process

The Assessment of Risk process is designed to gain a full understanding of the context of the threat and to begin to understand the factors that contributed to the behaviour of the individual of concern. An investigation determines the level of risk and directs an appropriate response to the incident. The process is proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the individual of concern.

Once the team has been activated, interviews may be held with the students, individual of concern, parents/caregivers, and staff to determine the level of risk and to develop an appropriate response to the incident.



### Can the student or parent refuse to participate?

It is important for all parties to engage in the risk assessment process. However, if there is a reluctance to participate in the process by the individual of concern or parent/caregiver, the threat assessment process will continue in order to promote a safe and caring learning environment.

