

328 THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL

Beliefs

MESC believes all students and staff are entitled to work and learn in environments that are safe, caring and secure. MESC schools have a duty to respond to all high threat/risk-related behaviours and act accordingly.

Procedures

1. Students, employees, school volunteers, contractors, and other persons shall show responsibility, understanding, sensitivity and concern for the well being of each person and will actively participate in maintaining a safe and caring learning environment.
2. Students worrisome behaviours will be addressed, to ensure the health and safety of students and staff.
3. MESC follows the Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response (CCTATR) Violent Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol (refer to the **MESC Violent Threat Risk Assessment Protocol**).
4. Principals, Assistant Principals, and Counsellors will be trained in a minimum of Level 1 VTRA.
5. The Principal will provide information regarding the VTRA protocol to all students, parents, and staff at the commencement of each school year in order to provide fair notice that threatening behaviour will be addressed accordingly (**Form 328-1**).
6. Any person in a school or on a school bus having knowledge of students exhibiting worrisome behaviours, or having reasonable grounds to believe there is a potential for worrisome behaviours, shall immediately report the information to the Principal or designate.
7. No action shall be taken against a person who makes a report unless it is made maliciously or without reasonable grounds. In cases where a report is made maliciously, the issue will be addressed accordingly.
8. The Principal shall ensure that all students exhibiting worrisome behaviours are taken seriously, assessed accordingly, and responded to appropriately.
9. When a student exhibits immediate risk behaviours, the Principal or designate shall contact the police without delay, and take steps to ensure the safety of all those in the school by activating established security procedures. The Principal shall notify the Director of Counselling and Student Wellness as soon as possible following contact with police.

10. The Principal shall notify the parents/guardians of the student making a threat at the earliest opportunity, as well as the parents of those students against whom the threat was made.
11. In order to ensure safety of all students, the student making the threat may be suspended from school during the assessment period.
12. The Threat Assessment Team shall guide the process from initial assessment of the data, to planning interventions to mitigate risk, to plans for reentry to school where a suspension has occurred.
13. If circumstances warrant, and following the completion of necessary assessments, the Threat Assessment Team may work with the student and their parents/guardians to develop a re-entry plan for school that becomes a signed contract by all participants.
14. Counsellors shall ensure that appropriate support is provided to those against whom threats have been made or others as necessary.
15. If necessary, the Principal shall notify staff and parents within a reasonable time period when the protocol has been activated as a result of immediate or high-risk behaviour. In consultation with the Director of Counselling and Student Wellness, information will be shared strategically and in a manner that decreases anxiety while protecting the confidentiality of those involved.
16. When dealing with students who exhibit worrisome behaviours, staff shall consult with the School Counsellor and inform the Principal.
17. The Principal shall consult with the School Counsellor and other appropriate staff as to whether or not a threat assessment needs to be conducted.
18. When a threat assessment is performed, the Director of Counselling and Student Wellness shall be responsible for completing the VTRA report. A summary of the report shall be placed in the student's confidential file.
19. The Director of Counselling and Student Wellness is responsible to ensure the effective implementation of the Threat Risk Assessment Protocol

Reference

MESC Violent Threat Risk Assessment Protocol

