



Coast Mountains Board of Education School District 82

3211 Kenney Street, Terrace, BC V8G 3E9
Tel. (250) 635-4931 or 1-855-635-4931 • www.cmsd.bc.ca

September 11, 2019

Dear CMSD82 Parents and Guardians:

RE: Fair Notice of Student Threat Risk Assessment Protocol

Coast Mountains School District 82 is committed to providing safe and caring learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors and community members. Our school district has been involved in intensive safety training with our community partners: the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Ministry of Children and Family Development, and other community agencies and services. Together, we have developed a plan for responding to all situations in our schools in which students may be posing a threat to themselves or others.

This letter is to inform you that Coast Mountains School District 82 now has regulations in place that require district staff and principals to complete a Violent Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) in all cases of students making significant threats in our schools. In all our school communities we have signed off on a formalized community-based VTRA protocol. Such protocols outline how organizations will collaborate and work together to respond quickly to threatening behaviour. The purpose of the assessment is to determine how best to reduce the risk to others so that we maintain an environment where students, staff, parents/guardians and others feel safe, and to ensure students receive help from the appropriate community agencies.

This letter is intended to serve our community with fair notice. A Parent Information Bulletin regarding the *Student Threat Assessment Protocol: Fair Notice* is provided for further information on the reverse side of this letter.

We are proud to be able to provide this level of support to our school communities and are most fortunate to have our community partners at our side. We believe that by working together with students, their families, and the community we can support young people to be healthy and happy.

Should you have further questions or concerns, please contact your School Principal for assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Janet Meyer
Acting Superintendent of Schools

Attachment

- Parent Information Bulletin September 2019 - Student Threat Assessment Protocol: Fair Notice



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PARENT INFORMATION BULLETIN – SEPTEMBER 2019

“Student Threat Assessment Protocol: Fair Notice”

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 social media or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated and responded to.

What is the purpose of a student threat assessment?

- ↳ To ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and others.
- ↳ To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat.
- ↳ To understand factors contributing 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 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, online threats to harm/kill, possession of weapons (including replicas), bomb threats, fire setting, sexual intimidation or assault, gang-related intimidation and violence.

What is a Threat Assessment Team?

Each school has a Threat Assessment Team which is multidisciplinary. The team may include the principal, vice principal, district resource counsellor, school counsellor and police.

What happens in a student threat assessment?

All threat making behaviour by a student 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. Investigations may involve locker or personal property searches. Intervention plans will be developed and shared with parents, staff and students as required. Threatening behaviour may result in disciplinary action.

Duty to Report

To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents, students and community members must report all threat-related behaviours.

Collection Notice

The School District is subject to personal information privacy laws, and will undertake the collection of this information in compliance with the requirements of such law; including by limiting collection to information that is relevant and necessary to address a risk or threat. Information collected as part of a threat assessment may be provided to law enforcement authorities in appropriate circumstances.