Behavioral Threat Assessment

Board of Education Meeting
September 12, 2023

Legislation

August 2022

Governor Murphy signed legislation N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.4

Requires the establishment of Threat Assessment
Teams in public schools

Purpose of the teams:

- Identify students of concern
- Assess students for level of risk
- Prevent targeted violence

Threat Assessment Definition

A threat assessment is a data gathering process that is non-adversarial, focused primarily on problem-solving and identifying if a person is on a pathway to violence, and determining if we can help the individual to solve their problem, fix their situation, or address their condition in a nonviolent way.

Threat Assessment is not discipline

The key is accurate reporting and quick reaction of the team to gather information and assemble it for a decision.

Requirements for School Districts

- Establish a multidisciplinary threat assessment team
- Define prohibited and concerning behaviors
- Create a central reporting mechanism
- Define a threshold for law enforcement intervention
- Establish threat assessment procedures
- Develop risk management options
- Create and promote safe school climates
- Conduct training for all stakeholders
- Create BOE Policy for Threat Assessment

Guidance received in July 19, 2023 NJDOE Broadcast

Threat Assessment Team Members

Administration

School mental health

Law enforcement

Behavior management

Special education

Safety and security

Technology

Community mental health

Others

Each building has selected members of their Threat Assessment Teams.

Training Required

Threat Assessment Team members must participate in a mandated training by NJDOE provided by The Office of Homeland Security

Additionally:

All staff members are receiving a training on the following topics:

1. What is Threat Assessment
2. Concerning behaviors
3. How to report a possible threat
4. When to report a possible threat

Threat Assessment Process

1. Identify persons of concern
2. Gather information and investigate
3. Assess person and situation
4. Manage the person and situation