

“Fair Notice”

The VTRA Protocol is one of many strategies that is in place in order to create a safe, secure and supportive learning environment. Schools communicate “Fair Notice” in a variety of ways to ensure that all members of the school community know that all threats to harm others will be investigated, resulting in the protocol being activated.

Members of the Threat Assessment and Intervention Team

Each school has a multi-disciplinary Threat Assessment and Intervention Team. The Threat Assessment and Intervention Team includes members from the school, support personnel and community agencies. The team will include a combination of the following: Administrators, SERT, School Board Psychologist, Guidance Counselors, Social Workers, the School Resource Police Officer and other pertinent professionals and/or community resource personnel. The Threat Assessment and Intervention team will review student information and share details of the event in order to collaboratively develop a plan of action to support the student.

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Questions?

For further information please
contact your school administration



VIOLENCE THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT & INTERVENTION PROTOCOL





Overview:

Violence Threat Risk Assessment

The Durham District School Board and community partners are committed to making our schools safe for students, staff and visitors. As a result the Board will respond to all student behaviours that pose a potential risk to other students, staff and members of the community. It is hoped that support for early identification and intervention measures by the Durham District School Board and community partners will help prevent school violence.

There are many initiatives in place to support positive, safe learning environments in our schools. One important initiative is the Community Threat Assessment and Intervention Protocol. Board administrators, school teams, and support staff are trained in Threat Assessment and Intervention. Once trained, school teams work to assess potentially high risk student behaviour and evaluate the level of threat to others and to the student exhibiting the behaviour. This training and school response protocol was developed by Kevin Cameron, the Director of the Canadian Centre for Threat and Risk Assessment.

The timely sharing of information about students at risk for violence towards self and/or others ensures that supportive plans are put in place to enhance safety. In addition, the effective implementation of The Community Threat Assessment & Intervention Protocol will support collaborative planning to prevent traumatic events.

What is the purpose of a Student Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) and Intervention Protocol?

A Student Violence Threat Risk Assessment and Intervention Protocol is intended to:

- Ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and community members at the school community.
- Ensure an effective and timely response to any situation during which there is a threat of violence.
- Mitigate the immediate risk of harm.
- Understand the factors that contribute to a situation during which an individual(s) makes threats to harm others.
- Assist in the development of an appropriate intervention plan.
- Support the physical and mental well-being of everyone involved.

What happens when a threat of violence is reported?

All threatening behaviours must be reported to school administration. The administrator may then activate the protocol. A team is formed to gather data and determine supports. Information may be obtained from multiple sources including:

- Teachers, students, targets, threat-makers, parents caregivers
- Current and previous school records
- Support groups and agencies
- Online sites and/or social media
- Locker and backpack searches

Data collected is shared and a determination is made as to whether the threat is a low, medium, or high level of concern. An Intervention Plan is then developed to reduce the risk of violence.

What is a threat?

A threat is an indication of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats can be verbal, written, drawn, posted on-line, inferred or made by a gesture. All threats must be taken seriously and responded to in a timely manner.

Is parent or student consent required?

Consent is not required to respond to an emergency situation during which there is a risk of someone being harmed. Due to safety concerns it is important that the incident be addressed quickly and effectively.

