

AP 175 – Acts of Violence

Background:

Every student in British Columbia should feel safe, accepted and respected, regardless of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. The District, together with the Government of British Columbia, is committed to ensuring school safety. The District procedures are in alignment with the Province of British Columbia's Expect Respect and a Safe Education (ERASE) strategy to help prevent, identify and stop harmful behaviours.

Violence, if it is to be eliminated, must be acknowledged as unacceptable and individuals involved in violent incidents must be held accountable. All violent incidents in the school system are to be treated in a manner similar to those in the general community. The District believes that an administrative procedure dealing with violent behaviour, or the threat of violent behaviour, must be put into place to protect District staff and students.

Violence/Threat Risk Assessment

The District has assembled and trained both District and school-based Risk Assessment Teams. The primary purpose of these teams is to identify indicators that suggest a student may pose a risk to others, or themselves. Protocol and procedures will then be followed to prevent injury to the individual or others, and to ensure that the student, or adult, receives the assistance he or she needs to address the issues contributing to the problematic behaviour.

Procedures:

District protocol and procedure is as follows:

1. As part of the implementation of the Violence/Threat Assessment Protocol (VTRA Protocol) all students, staff, and parents shall be provided with information about the protocol and procedures so that "fair notice" is given that:
 - 1.1 Threat behaviour will not be tolerated.
 - 1.2 Threat behaviour will be taken seriously and investigated.

2. Any District employee having knowledge of threat-making behaviour to self or others will promptly report the information to the Principal or designate who will respond accordingly.

Reportable behaviours are categorized but are not limited to (please err on the side of caution):

2.1 Immediate Risk Behaviours – Call 911 immediately and activate initial response team.

- 2.1.1 Possessing a weapon while displaying any threatening behaviour is to be considered an immediate risk.

2.2 High Risk Behaviours – activate initial response team.

- 2.2.1 Possessing a weapon.
- 2.2.2 Serious violence with intent to harm or kill.
- 2.2.3 Making threats to destroy a school (e.g. bomb, fire).
- 2.2.4 Making verbal or written threats to kill others.
- 2.2.5 Using the internet or other electronic media to threaten to kill or injure others.
- 2.2.6 Sexual intimidation or assault.
- 2.2.7 Gang-related intimidation or violence.

2.3 High Profile Threat Related Behaviours – activate initial response team.

- 2.3.1 Elevated sensitivity by school community.
- 2.3.2 Dramatic over-reaction due to traumatic stimuli.

2.4 Worrisome Behaviours – Refer student to counselor and consult with District Administrator.

In consultation with the counselor, complete the Incident Report Form.

- 2.4.1 Stalking in any form or format.
- 2.4.2 Drawing of disturbing pictures.
- 2.4.3 Writing disturbing stories, etc.
- 2.4.4 Harassing in person, through others, or via the internet or other electronic media including the telephone.
- 2.4.5 Demonstrating any other behaviour that leaves the recipient feeling threatened.

3. The District has assembled a District Risk Assessment Team (DRAT). Trained members consist of administrators, counselors and the school liaison police officer. The school-based teams consist of a District administrator, a school administrator, a school counselor and the WVPD liaison officer.
4. All reported behaviours will be assessed by the Principal or designate. If the Principal or designate deems it necessary, he or she will activate the school team, the District team (DRAT), or both.

5. Regardless of activation of school team, District team or both, the administrator will contact the District Principal and Superintendent or designate to consider and discuss the threat.
6. As appropriate and considering Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Laws, staff who reported the threat or behaviour will be apprised of the actions taken. If deemed appropriate, all staff at the site will be apprised of the incident and the preventative and/or procedures followed.
7. District Violent Threat Risk and Suicide Risk Assessment protocols will be followed.
8. District Incident/Accident protocol and WCB regulations will be followed.

Legal Reference: *Sections 20, 22, 65, 85 School Act*
Workers' Compensation Act
Occupational Health and Safety Regulation