

## Student Threat Assessment: Fair Notice and Process

*SD #8 Kootenay Lake is committed to creating and maintaining school environments in which students, staff, parents and others feel safe. Schools cannot ignore any threat of violence. This represents 'fair notice' to our communities that SD#8 will address all threats to self and/or others.*



The model presented in this document reflects the thinking and work of J. Kevin Cameron, Director of the Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response.

**School District #8 Kootenay Lake**  
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### What can students, staff, parents and community members do?

- Listen to children and youth
- Talk to your child
- Talk to your child's teacher and administration
- Take action
- Report any threat making behavior to any member of the Threat Assessment team (Principal, MCFD, MH, Police) or, if immediate danger, the RCMP
- Check out the [www.erasebullying.ca](http://www.erasebullying.ca) website for parent and community resources

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## Student Threat/Violence Risk Assessment



# Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment: Fair Notice and Process

## What behaviors warrant a Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment to be initiated?

A Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment will be initiated when behaviours include, among other activities:

- serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill self or others,
- verbal/written threats to harm or kill others,
- Internet website/social media threats to harm or kill others,
- possession of weapons (including replicas), bomb threats and fire setting.

## Duty to Report

To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents, students and community members must report all threat related behaviours. Every threat must be taken seriously, thoroughly investigated and a response and follow through completed.

## What is a threat?

- an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something.
- may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet or made by gesture.

Threats must be taken seriously, investigated and responded to. Schools in SD#8 Kootenay Lake will take all threats seriously and work collaboratively with the VTRA team to create effective intervention strategies for safety of all.



## What is a Violence Threat/Risk Assessment team?

Each school has a multi-disciplinary Violence Threat/Risk Assessment Team. The team may include the District Threat Assessment Liaison, school Principal and/or Vice-Principal, School District Psychologist, School Counsellor, RCMP, MCFD worker, Mental Health Worker, Nelson Police Department and others.

It is important for all parties to engage in the Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment process. If for some reason there is reluctance to participate in the process, by the threat-maker or parent/guardian, the threat assessment process will still continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning environment for all.

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## What is the purpose of a Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment?

The purposes of a Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment are:

- to ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and others
- to ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat
- to begin to understand the factors that contribute 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 happens in a Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment?

The process of a Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment:

- all threat making behaviour(s) by a student(s) shall be reported to the principal, who will activate the SD8 Kootenay Lake protocol.
- Interviews will 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
- intervention plans will be developed.