

Fair Notice

The Chilliwack School District and community partners are committed to making our schools safe for students and staff. As a result schools will respond to all student behaviours that pose a potential risk to themselves, other students, staff, and members of the community.

What behaviours initiate a Student Violent Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA)?

A Student Violent Threat Risk Assessment will be initiated for behaviours including, but are not limited to, serious violence or violence with intent to harm/kill, verbal/written threats to harm/kill others, online threats to harm/kill others, possession of weapons (including replicas), bomb threats (making explosive and /or detonating devices), fire setting, sexual intimidation or assault, or gang related intimidation and violence.

Duty to report

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

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 the Internet, or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated, and responded to.

What is a Threat Assessment Team?

Each school has a Threat Assessment Team which is multi-disciplinary. The team may include Principal, Vice-Principal, School Counsellor, Resource Teacher and Police.

What is the purpose of a VTRA?

- 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 person of concern's behavior
- To be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the person of concern
- To promote the emotional and physical safety of all

What happens in a VTRA?

All threat making behavior 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 person of concern, parents and staff to determine the level of risk and develop an appropriate response to the incident. Intervention plans will be developed and shared with parents, staff and students as required.

Can I refuse to participate in a VTRA process?

It is important for all parties to engage in the process. However, if for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process by the person of concern or parent/caregiver, the threat assessment process will continue in order to promote a safe and caring learning environment.

Collection Notice

The School District is subject to personal information privacy laws and will undertake the collection of information in compliance with the requirements of such laws. Collection of information will be limited to that which is relevant and necessary to address a risk or threat. Information that is collected from online sources will only be obtained from open source sites. The School District will not collect information as part of a threat assessment unless there is reason to believe that a risk exists. Information collected as part of a threat assessment may be provided to law enforcement authorities in appropriate circumstances.