

BEHAVIORAL THREAT ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT

Purpose

The Board is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of its students and the school community and providing the resources and support to address identified student needs. The Board adopts this policy to address student behavior that may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community, and others.

Authority

The RSU 16 School Board directs the Superintendent or designee, to establish a threat assessment management team and develop procedures for assessing and intervening with students whose behavior may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community, and others.

Members of the threat assessment management team shall engage in an assessment of the reported student behavior that may indicate a threat, in accordance with training and established procedures. This process may include, but is not limited to:

1. Interviewing the student, other students, staff, parents/guardians, or others regarding the subject(s) of the reported threat.
2. Reviewing existing academic, health and disciplinary records and assignments, as appropriate, regarding the subject(s) of the report.
3. Conducting searches of lockers, storage spaces, school laptops and other possessions on school property as applicable, in accordance with applicable law, regulations, and Board policy.
4. Examining outside resources such as social media sites, in coordination with law enforcement, or contacting law enforcement, juvenile probation, or community agencies to request additional information about the subject(s) of the report, in accordance with law, regulations and Board policies.
5. Where appropriate, convening the appropriate team to assess and/or address the situation that is the subject of the report, such as the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team, Section 504 Team, Behavior Support team, Student Support team, or others.

The threat assessment management team shall use all information or records obtained in fulfilling the team's duty in accordance with law to evaluate a threat or to recommend disposition of a threat. Team members shall not redisclose any record or information obtained or otherwise use any record of a student beyond the purpose for which the disclosure was made to the team, in accordance with law.

The threat assessment management team shall maintain confidentiality and handle all student records in accordance with applicable law, regulations, Board policy, the Student Records Plan, and the district's legal and investigative obligations. Threat assessment management team members whose roles require confidentiality of specific student communications, in accordance with law, shall ensure that all confidential communications and information are addressed in accordance with applicable law, regulations, Board policy, and administrative regulations.

Application of Policy

This policy applies to threats:

- ❖ At school or on school grounds;
- ❖ At any school-sponsored or school-related activity or event;
- ❖ While students are being transported to or from school or school-sponsored activities or events.

Definitions

Behavioral Threat Assessment Management Team – means a threat assessment management team established by the Superintendent or designee to complete the threat assessment management process, determine and implement appropriate interventions for each case, and complete required reporting on each case. Also referred to as “BTAM Team.”

RSU #16 (Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland)(DOE)✓

Policy Code: JKG

Adopted: April 2023

Revised:

Harmful, threatening, or violent behavior – includes, but is not limited to, a written, oral or electronic expression or physical act or gesture, behaviors, such as verbal threats, threats of self-harm, bullying, cyberbullying, fighting, the use or possession of a weapon, sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, stalking, or assault, by a student.

Behavioral Threat Assessment Management (BTAM) – a fact-based process for the assessment of and intervention with students whose behaviors may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community, or others.

BTAM Team

The Superintendent shall appoint individuals to a district threat assessment management team and/or individuals to a threat assessment management team at each school building in the district, including a designated team leader.

The team is responsible for developing and implementing the behavioral threat assessment management program in compliance with RSU 16 policy. The policies and procedures adopted must:

1. Be consistent with the model policies and procedures developed by RSU 16;
2. Require each team to complete training regarding the evidence-based threat assessment management program to be used (i.e., CSTAG (Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines), NTAC (National Threat Assessment Center)); and
3. Require each team established under this section to report the required information regarding the team's activities to the Superintendent.

BTAM Team Membership and Responsibilities

The Superintendent/RSU 16 Board shall ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, that the members appointed to each team have expertise in counseling, behavior management, restorative practices, mental health and substance use, classroom instruction, special education, school administration, school safety and security, emergency management, and law enforcement.

The assigned team shall:

1. Conduct a threat assessment to determine the level of risk and appropriate interventions that may include:
 - a. Referring a student for mental health assessment;
 - b. Engaging local law enforcement agencies;
 - c. Referring to student's IEP team or Section 504 team to review and address current behavior intervention plans;
 - d. Address behavior in accordance with applicable disciplinary policies, including in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension or the student's expulsion.
2. Provide guidance to students and school employees on recognizing harmful, threatening, or violent behavior that may pose a threat to the community, school, or individual; and
3. Support the district in implementing the district's multi-hazard emergency operations plan when warranted.

BTAM Team Training

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that threat assessment management team members are provided individual and/or group training on:

1. Responsibilities of threat assessment management team members.
2. Process of identifying, reporting, assessing, responding to, and intervening with threats.
3. Identifying and avoiding racial, cultural, or disability bias.
4. Confidentiality requirements under state and federal laws and regulations, and Board policies.

5. Youth suicide awareness, prevention, and response.
6. Trauma-informed approaches.
7. Reporting procedures.
8. Best practices on threat assessments, interventions, and supports related to mental health.
9. Other mental health training required by state law.

Reporting Requirements

Case Reporting

The threat assessment management team shall document, assess and respond to reports received regarding students whose behavior may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community, or others. The BTAM Team shall also assist in assessing and responding to reports that are received through a tipline, verbal or written report identifying students who may be a threat to themselves or others. The threat assessment management team shall assist in assessing and responding to reports of students exhibiting self-harm or suicide risk factors or warning signs, as identified in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

When the threat assessment management team has made a preliminary determination that a student's reported behavior may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community, or others, the team shall immediately take the following steps:

1. Notify the Superintendent or designee of the reported threat.
2. Notify the building principal of the school the student attends of the reported threat, who shall notify the student's parent/guardian of the reported threat.

When a reported student's behavior indicates that there may be an imminent threat to the safety of the student or others, or an emergency situation, a BTAM team member shall take immediate action, which may include promptly reporting to the appropriate law enforcement agency and school administration. Where a threat assessment management team member has reasonable cause to suspect that a reported situation indicates that a student may be a victim of child abuse, the member shall make a report of suspected child abuse in accordance with law and Board policy.

Annual Report

The threat assessment management team shall provide an annual report to the School Board outlining the district's approach to threat assessment management, which shall include:

1. Verification that the district's threat assessment management team and process comply with applicable law and regulations.
2. The number of BTAM teams assigned in the district, and their composition.
3. The total number of threats assessed that year.
4. The outcome of each assessment made by the team that may include, but not violate confidentiality:
 - a. Any disciplinary actions taken, including a change in school placement, referral to alternative disciplinary school, or suspension (in-school or out-of-school);
 - b. Any action taken by law enforcement (to include citations issued, arrests made, use of restraint).
5. An assessment of the district's threat assessment management team(s) operation.
6. Recommendations for improvement of the district's threat assessment management processes.
7. Any additional information required by the Superintendent/RSU 16 School Board/State.

Awareness Training

RSU 16 shall notify students, staff, and parents/guardians about the existence and purpose of the BTAM team through posting information on the district website, publishing in handbooks and through other appropriate methods. The threat assessment management team shall make available age-appropriate informational materials to students regarding recognition of threatening or at-risk behavior that may present a threat to the student, other students, school employees, school facilities,

the community, or others and how to report concerns, including through anonymous reporting systems and other district reporting hotlines or methods. Informational materials shall be available for review by parents/guardians.

The BTAM team will provide informational materials for school employees regarding recognition of threatening or at-risk behavior that may present a threat to the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community, or others and how to report concerns, including through anonymous reporting systems and other district reporting hotlines or methods. Information for school employees shall include a list of the staff members who have been appointed to the threat assessment management team.

Cross References:

CSTAG - Threat Assessment Administrative Procedure

JIC - Student Code of Conduct

JICC - Student Behavior on Busses

JICH - Substance & Abuse

JICIA - Weapons, Violence & School Safety

JICK - Bullying

JK - Student Discipline

JKE - Expulsion

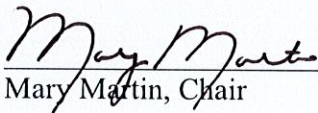
JKF - Discipline Removal Disability

JLF - Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect

JRA - Student Education Records

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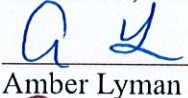
RSU 16 School Board


Mary Martin, Chair

4/10/23
DATE

Joe Parent, Vice Chair

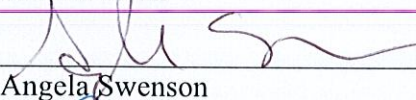
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Amber Lyman

4-10-23
DATE


Andrea Winn

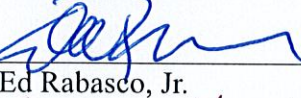
4/10/2023
DATE


Angela Swenson

4/10/23
DATE


Christine Downs

04/10/2023
DATE


Ed Rabasco, Jr.

4-10-23
DATE


Elizabeth Martin

4-10-23
DATE

RSU #16 (Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland)(DOE)✓

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Emily Rinchich

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Jessie Smith

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DATE

Melanie Harvey

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DATE

Mike Downing

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DATE

Patrick Irish

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DATE

Sarah Robinson

DATE

Steve Holbrook

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DATE