



STUDENT VIOLENCE THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT

Hanover School Division is committed to creating and maintaining school environments where students, staff, parents/caregivers, and others feel safe. This document represents fair notice to our communities that HSD will address all student threats to self or others. Schools cannot ignore any threat of violence or violent acts.

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.

WHAT BEHAVIOURS WARRANT A VIOLENCE THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT?

A Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) will be initiated when behaviours include but are not limited to:

- Serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill
- Verbal/written threats to harm or kill others (clear, direct, and plausible)
- Online threats to harm or kill others
- Possession of weapons, including replicas
- Bomb threats (making or detonating explosive devices) or fire starting
- Sexual intimidation or assault
- Gang-related intimidation and violence

WHAT IS MY DUTY TO REPORT?

To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents/caregivers, students, and community members must report all threat-related behaviours to the school principal. If there is potential for immediate danger, call 911.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A VIOLENCE THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT?

The purpose of a VTRA is to identify indicators that suggest a student may be moving on a pathway towards violence against self or others. The VTRA supports the student by providing the help needed to address the issues contributing to high-risk behaviour. The assessment is also proactive in that it supports the development of an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of all those involved.



WHAT HAPPENS IN A VIOLENCE THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT?

Each school has a threat assessment team that has received VTRA protocol training. The VTRA team may include a principal, vice-principal, clinician, social worker, psychologist, designated staff member, and community partners. Team members are tasked with determining the threat risk level and appropriate response.

Interviews will be held with students or adults who may have information about the threat or violent act. The assessment may require locker or personal property searches and may involve the police or other community agencies. Parents/Caregivers will be notified if their children are directly involved. If parents/caregivers cannot be reached, but a safety concern exists (due to threatening behaviour), the threat assessment may still proceed.

An intervention plan may be developed for the student making the threat, and a support plan designed for any targeted individuals. Threatening behaviour may also result in student disciplinary action.

PRIVACY - PERSONAL INFORMATION

Personal information collected during the threat risk assessment will comply with the provincial Protecting and Supporting Children (Information Sharing) Act. The Act allows government departments, organizations and others who provide services to at-risk and vulnerable children to collect, use and share personal information, including personal health information, about supported children and their parents or legal guardians. Personal information can only be shared under the Act if it is believed by the service provider to be in the supported child's best interests.

The authority to share personal information is in addition to that already found in The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) and The Personal Health Information Act (PHIA).

Parents/Caregivers are encouraged to contact the school principal if they have any questions or concerns regarding the VTRA protocol. Visit HSD.ca to access this document online.

