

Threat Assessment Team and Purpose

Pennsylvania statute requires that school entities are to establish threat assessment teams, procedures, and reporting protocols. Threat Assessment is a violence prevention strategy that involves identifying student threats to commit a violent act, determining the seriousness of the threat, and developing intervention plans that protect potential victims and address the underlying problem or conflict that stimulated the threatening behavior. Our threat assessment team conducts unique evaluations, determines the seriousness of the threat(s) and forms smaller committee teams with the skills capable of handling the specific type of threat.

The goals of threat assessment are to keep schools safe and to help potential offenders overcome the underlying sources of their anger, hopelessness, or despair. Effective threat assessment provides school professionals with useful information about a student's risks and personal resources. Among the other potential student risks that can be identified and prevented are suicide, alcohol and drug use, physical abuse, dropping out, and criminal activity.