



Lisa Walsh, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board

**Avon Maitland District School Board**

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## Parent/Guardian Fair Notice Re: Threat Assessment

This letter is a general notice to parents/guardians to ensure safe schools in our district.

The Avon Maitland District School Board and the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board along with our Community Partners are committed to making our schools safe for students, staff, school visitors, and community members. Part of this commitment is responding quickly and effectively to student behaviours that pose a potential risk to students, staff, and members of the community. Early intervention will help reduce school violence and maintain a high level of safety. As such, the school boards have established a Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol in partnership with a number of community agencies.

### What is the process?

- When school or community agency staff, students or parents identify behaviours in a student that pose a potential risk to self and/or others, the school administration may do a Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) in collaboration with the protocol partners.
- Behaviours that might trigger a VTRA include but are not limited to: possession of weapon/replica; bomb threat/plan; verbal, written, Internet website/electronic threat to kill or injure self/others; setting fires; threats of violence; hate motivated violence.
- School administration staff may call together a multidisciplinary Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Team, which could include: the school administration and school teaching and support staff, board support staff and community partners (e.g., police, children's mental health practitioners, addictions counsellors, public health nurses, probation).
- An assessment will be completed to:
  - Understand the context and the level of the risk/threat
  - Better understand the factors that contribute to the threat maker's behaviours
  - Plan for a supportive response for all those involved
  - Develop a Risk Management Plan

### What about privacy?

- The Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Team will be permitted to share and review student information and the details of the event with other members of the team in order to collaborate and respond to the situation.
- For safety reasons, the VTRA process will continue even if the threat maker and/or parent/guardian are reluctant to participate, all the while maintaining respect for the individual's rights to privacy.
- Risk management and student support plans will be developed and shared with parents, staff and students as required.

This letter is intended to serve our community with fair notice that we, as school communities, will not accept "no response" to a serious threat. Our goal is to respond to all threats in a professional manner that provides for a healthy and caring learning environment.

We are pleased to provide, in conjunction with our community partners, a safe environment for all of our students.

If you have questions concerning this procedure, please contact Jodie Baker, Superintendent of Education (Operations) at 800-592-5437 x208.

  
Jodie Baker  
Superintendent of Education