



SAFE, CARING AND ACCEPTING SCHOOLS

Student Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA): Notice to our students and parents/guardians/caregivers

Fair Notice and Process

What behaviours warrant a Student Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) to be initiated?

A Student VTRA will be initiated for behaviours including:

- 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 and/or detonating explosive devices);
- Fire setting;
- Hate motivated violence targeting a particular student/group;
- Sexual intimidation or assault;
- Chronic, pervasive, targeted bullying or harassment; and
- Gang related intimidation and violence.

What is a threat?

- An expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something.
- May be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet, or made by gesture.

Duty to Report

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

“Ensuring safe schools requires far more than just threat risk assessment procedures. It requires evidence-based, preventative Safe School Climate initiatives, strong student/staff relationships, ongoing training and refining of all policies, procedure and protocols that promote socially responsible behaviour.”

J. KEVIN CAMERON
NORTH AMERICAN CENTRE FOR THREAT ASSESSMENT AND
TRAUMA RESPONSE (NACTATR)

Duty to Respond

Threats must be taken seriously, investigated, and include an appropriate response. Saskatoon Public Schools will not accept a “no response” to a serious threat. Our goal is to respond to threats quickly and in a professional manner, so that we can maintain a safe and caring learning environment.

Each school has a multi-disciplinary Safe School Team. The team includes the school principal and/or vice principal, school counsellor(s), school resource officer (police) and central office support. It may also include community resources from the Ministry of Social Services, Saskatoon Fire Department, RCMP, Justice, Mental Health and other agencies as needed. Saskatoon Public Schools is pleased to offer this commitment and level of support to our school communities and we appreciate the community partners who are participating with us.

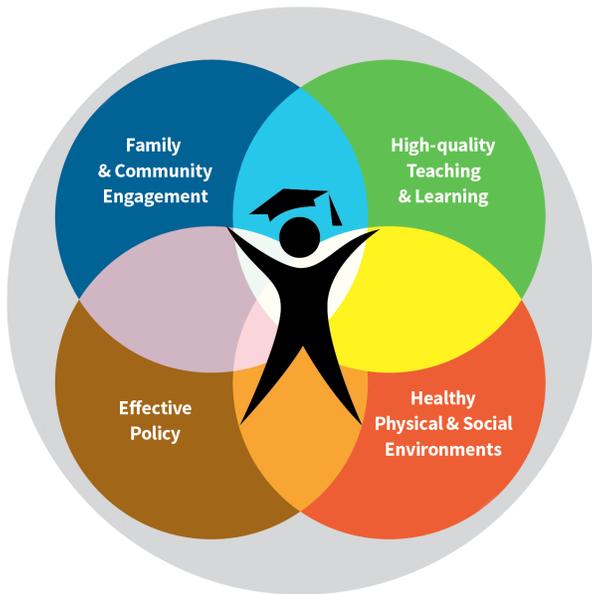
It is important for all parties to engage in the Student Violence Threat Risk Assessment process. If for some reason there is reluctance to participate in the process (by the threat maker or parent/guardian/caregiver) the threat assessment process may continue in order to ensure a safe, caring and accepting learning environment for all.

What is the purpose of a Student VTRA?

- To ensure the safety of students, staff, parents/guardians/caregivers and others;
- To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat;
- To begin to understand the factors that contribute to the threat maker’s behaviour;
- To be proactive in developing an intervention and support plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker; and
- To promote the emotional and physical safety of all.

What happens in a Student VTRA?

- All threat making behaviour(s) by a student(s) is reported to the principal/vice principal who activates Saskatoon Public Schools’ Violence Threat Risk Assessment protocol;
- Interviews are held with the student(s), the threat maker, parents/guardians/caregivers and staff;
- An investigation determines the level of risk and directs an appropriate response to the incident; and
- Intervention plans are developed and monitored.



Saskatoon Public Schools is committed to creating safe, caring and accepting learning and work environments. It is our goal to work together with parents/caregivers/guardians and community partners to support students as they develop moral values, display ethical conduct, and achieve to the best of their ability.

Schools cannot ignore any threat of violence.

OUR VISION
Every Student is
Known • Valued • Believed In

 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE Students will achieve success in their learning goals	 CHARACTER Students will demonstrate respect, responsibility, and perseverance	 ENGAGEMENT Students will actively participate in relevant and meaningful learning	 WELL-BEING Students will develop the skills to make healthy choices
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OUR COMMITMENT
We will create learning experiences that inspire all students to reach their potential.



Saskatoon Public Schools
Inspiring Learning

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For more information on Saskatoon Public Schools' Safe and Caring Schools strategy, contact your school principal and visit our website at www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca