

POLICY Board of Education of Queen Anne's County Public Schools

Responsible Office:	Student Services
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Behavior Threat Assessment

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to establish procedures for the assessment and intervention with students, staff and other non-affiliated individuals whose behaviors pose a threat to the safety of the school environment. The Queen Anne's County Board of Education believes that school must be a safe place for students and staff. Serious threats of violence stated against any person(s) in the Queen Anne's County Public Schools community will not be tolerated and will be ~~handled as a disciplinary infraction~~ **considered for possible disciplinary infraction**. Appropriate law enforcement and other agency officials will be contacted when warranted. A verbal or non-verbal declaration of intent or determination to inflict significant injury to persons and/or damage property with the perceived ability/intention to carry through on the threat is the definition of a serious substantive threat. Serious substantive threats of violence made at or away from school and/or to be implemented at or away from school fall under school regulations when there is a connection between the threat and student/staff safety.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

When an individual makes a threat or engages in concerning communications or behaviors that suggest the likelihood of a threatening situation, the Behavioral Threat Assessment Policy shall be followed. The goal of the threat assessment process is to take appropriate preventative or corrective measures to maintain a safe and secure school environment, to protect and support potential victims, and to provide assistance, as needed, to the individual being assessed. Regardless of threat assessment activities, disciplinary action and referral to law enforcement must occur when required by school system policy or as otherwise established in Maryland law or regulations. All school system employees, volunteers, and contractors should report immediately to the designated school administrator any expression of intent to harm another person, concerning communications, or concerning behaviors that suggest an individual may intend to commit an act of violence.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. *Threat* – An expression of an intent to cause physical harm to someone. The threat may be expressed/communicated behaviorally, orally, visually, in writing, electronically or through any other means; and is considered a threat regardless of whether it is observed by or communicated directly to the target of the threat or observed by or communicated to a third party; and regardless of whether the target of

the threat is aware of the threat. Threats may be direct (“I am going to beat you up.”) indirect or implied (“I’m going to get him.” Or He better watch out”).

- B. *Threat Assessment* – A comprehensive process emphasizing an appraisal of observed (or reasonably observable) behaviors to identify potentially dangerous or violent situations, to assess them, and to manage/address them.
- C. *Low/Transient Risk Threat* – A threat which is determined that the individual/situation does not appear to pose a threat of serious harm to self/others, and any exhibited issues/concerns can be resolved easily. A low risk threat may be handled by the ordinary school disciplinary process at the discretion of the school administration.
- D. *Moderate Risk Threat* – A threat in which the person/situation does not appear to pose a threat of serious harm to self/others, at this time; but exhibits behaviors that indicate a continuing intent and potential for future violence or serious harm to self/others; and/or exhibits other concerning behavior that requires intervention. A moderate risk threat may also involve a parallel school disciplinary process.
- E. *High Risk Threat* – A threat in which the person/situation appears to pose a threat of serious harm, exhibiting behaviors that indicate both a continuing intent to harm and efforts to acquire the capacity to carry out the plan; and may also exhibit other concerning behavior that requires intervention. A high-risk threat may also involve a parallel school disciplinary process.
- F. *Imminent Threat* – A threat in which the person/situation appears to pose a clear and immediate threat of serious violence toward others that requires containment and action to protect identified or identifiable target(s); and may also exhibit other concerning behavior that require intervention.
- G. *Behavioral Threat Assessment* – A structured group process used to identify, assess, and manage the risk of threats of targeted violence posed by an individual or group.
- H. *Non-Affiliated Person* – A person who is not an employee, student, contractor, family member or friend of a student or staff.

IV. POLICY ELEMENTS

V. IMPLEMENTATION

The Board directs the Superintendent to implement this policy.

VI. POLICY REVIEW

VII. SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO TITLES, DEPARTMENTS, OR LAWS

VIII. EFFECTIVE DATE

Date: June 5, 2024

Patricia Saelens, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Queen Anne’s County Public Schools

HISTORY:

Initial Adoption	--/--/----	Revised	--/--/----	Reviewed	--/--/----	Next Review	--/--/----
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