

THREATS

FILE: JICK

TITLE: **Threat Assessment Teams**

POLICY:

The School Board of Orange County, Florida (“Board”) finds it essential that all Orange County Public Schools (“OCPS”) be safe and orderly to provide environments that foster learning; therefore, all statements, written or non-written, actions, or gestures that threaten the safety of any person or any OCPS school or facility, will be taken seriously, regardless of intent. All threats of harm to oneself or others shall be immediately reported to school administration and/or law enforcement, if applicable. In addition, to further the goal of school safety and in accordance with Section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, every school shall establish a school-based threat assessment team. A district threat assessment team shall also be established to provide guidance and oversight to the school-based threat assessment teams. The responsibilities of the school-based and district threat assessment teams (collectively hereafter “threat assessment teams”) shall be consistent with Florida Statutes, State Board of Education Rules, model policies developed by the Florida Department of Education, Office of Safe Schools (“Office of Safe Schools”) upon availability, and this policy.

- (1) Threat assessment teams shall include persons with expertise in:
 - (a) Counseling;
 - (b) Instruction;
 - (c) School administration;
 - (d) Law enforcement; and
 - (e) Any other Board employee deemed necessary by the threat assessment teams that can provide valuable input, such as the mental health designee, staffing specialist, dean, etc.

- (2) Threat assessment teams shall follow procedures and guidelines set forth by the District and in accordance with Florida Statutes and/or State Board of Education Rules. These procedures include:
 - (a) The threat assessment teams shall meet monthly, or as often as necessary to ensure that students are appropriately assessed and referred to services. However, if there is an imminent threat to school safety, then the principal or designee shall convene an emergency threat assessment meeting to address the imminent

threat.

- (b) Threat assessment teams shall identify members of the school community to whom threatening behavior should be reported and provide guidance to students, faculty, and staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self.
 - (c) Threat assessment teams shall consult with law enforcement when a student exhibits patterns of behavior, based on previous acts, which pose a threat to school safety. However, if a threat is imminent or the threat assessment teams believe the student poses a threat to the community, the threat assessment teams shall consult with law enforcement immediately.
 - (d) Upon a preliminary determination that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to himself or herself or others, the threat assessment teams shall immediately report its determination to the Superintendent or designee. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the principal or designee shall immediately attempt to notify the student's parent/guardian. Nothing in this subsection precludes school district personnel from acting immediately to address an imminent threat.
 - (e) If an immediate mental health or substance abuse crisis is suspected, school personnel shall follow policies and procedures established by the Board and District, Florida Statutes, and/or State Board of Education Rules to engage behavioral health crisis resources, this may include, but is not limited to mobile crisis teams and school resource officers trained in crisis intervention.
 - (f) Threat assessment teams shall utilize the behavioral threat assessment instrument developed by the Office of Safe Schools, pursuant to Section 1001.212, Florida Statutes.
 - (g) All very serious substantive threats shall be reported to OCPS District Police Communications Center.
- (3) The District Threat Assessment Team may review school-based threat assessment team threat classifications as identified in the behavioral threat assessment instrument. The District Threat Assessment Team shall have the authority to reclassify a school-based threat assessment team threat classification and shall notify the principal or designee of the decision and reasons for the reclassification.
 - (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, OCPS may share records or information with other agencies that are confidential or exempt from disclosure under chapter 119 if the records or information are reasonably

necessary to ensure access to appropriate services for the student or to ensure the safety of the student or others.

- (5) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, OCPS shall contact the parent/guardian of the intended target to alert the parent/guardian to the threat as a health, welfare, and/or safety emergency notification.
- (6) Threat assessment teams shall report quantitative data on its activities to the Office of Safe Schools in accordance with guidance set forth by the Office of Safe Schools. Threat assessment teams shall utilize the threat assessment database developed by the Office of Safe Schools upon the availability of the database, pursuant to Section 1001.212, Florida Statutes.

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY: Sections 1001.212; 1006.07; 1006.13, Florida Statutes
20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99

TITLE: School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting

POLICY:

Incidents related to school safety and discipline shall be accurately reported in a timely manner to the Office of Safe Schools through the School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) structure. OCPS will follow rules established for the requirements of the SESIR reporting upon availability by the Florida Department of Education.

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY: Section 1006.07, Florida Statutes

ADOPTED: 8/20/2019
REVISED: 4/14/2020