

New York State Police Threat Assessment Model, (2007)

Threat reported to principal

Assemble school threat assessment team

- Conduct threat assessment – assign a central point of contact
- Include School Resource Officer (SRO) if one exists, otherwise consult law enforcement
- Immediately ask “How much time do we have?”
- Decide how to handle a “student of concern” pending the outcome of the threat assessment (should allegations be unfounded)
- Revisit/revise threat assessment plan if necessary

Evaluate threat

- Utilize an “integrated systems approach” relying on information from all who have interaction with the student
- Consider facts that drew your attention to the student, situation, and target - obtain first-hand, specific accounts of the threat by interviewing recipients, witnesses, and student who made the threat - document/photograph/record all
- Establish/maintain contact with the student
- Obtain/consider information about the student – identifiers, background information, current life situation and circumstances
- Consider the circumstances in which the threat was made, student’s intentions, motives, and target selection
- Base your threat assessment upon facts, rather than characteristics or “traits”

Decide whether threat is *clearly transient* or *substantive*

- Is there information to suggest that this student is on the path to an attack?
- Has any pre-attack behavior been identified?
- Is the student engaging in behavior that indicates furthering a plan or building capacity for a violent attack?
- Consider whether the student *poses* a threat, or simply *made* a threat
- Has the student broken a law? → Contact law enforcement

Threat is *clearly transient*

Respond to transient threat

- School discipline, parent notification, and counseling

Threat is *substantive* or threat meaning is unclear

Decide whether substantive threat is **plausible** or **imminent**

Plausible

Respond to plausible threat

- Take immediate precautions to protect potential victims
- If threat involves a possible crime contact law enforcement
- Notify potential victim, and victim’s parents/guardians (if victim is a student)
- Notify “student of concern’s” parents/guardians
- Connect student to services and support systems
- Discipline student as appropriate

Imminent

Respond to imminent threat

- Immediately contact law enforcement
- Take immediate precautions to protect potential victims
- Execute appropriate emergency response (lockdown, lockout, shelter-in-place) if necessary
- Notify “student of concern’s” parents/guardians
- Initiate mental health evaluation procedures
- Discipline student as appropriate
- Be cognizant of items of an evidentiary nature that may be needed in a possible criminal prosecution