

## Behavioral Threat Assessment Notification & Process

On August 1, 2022, Governor Phil Murphy signed into legislation NJSA 18A:17-43.4, which requires the establishment of threat assessment teams in public, charter, and renaissance school projects. The purpose of a threat assessment team is to provide school teachers, administrators, and other staff with assistance in identifying students with behaviors of concern, assessing those students' risk for engaging in violence or other harmful activities, and delivering intervention strategies to manage the risk of harm for students who pose a potential safety risk. Threat assessment teams' purpose is also to prevent targeted violence in the school and to ensure a safe and secure school environment that enhances the learning experience for all members of the school community.

The Toms River Regional School District and its community partners are committed to making our schools safe for all students and staff. As a result, schools will respond to all student behaviors that pose a potential risk to other students, staff, and members of the community. The Behavioral Threat Assessment process is designed to be proactive in developing intervention plans that address the emotional and physical safety of those involved. A threat assessment will be initiated by the school-based threat assessment team when behaviors have been identified by staff, students, or community members that pose a potential risk to self or others. Behaviors include, but are not limited to possession of weapons/replica, bomb threat/plan, verbal or written threat to kill or injure, internet website threats to kill or injure self/others, setting fires, and other threats of violence.

Each school has a trained Threat Assessment Team which is multidisciplinary. When necessary, an assessment will be completed to ensure a full understanding of the context and level of the threat/risk, a better understanding of the factors that contribute to the student of concern's behaviors, and a plan of supportive response for all involved.

It is important for all parties to support the Threat Assessment process. If for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process, by the student of concern or the parent/guardian, the threat assessment process will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring environment for all. Information shared throughout this process will respect the individual's right to privacy and the safety of all. An Intervention Plan will be developed and shared with the parents/guardians, staff, and students as required.

To report a concern please contact the [building principal](#) and/or the local police department immediately.