



Threat Assessment Guidance Document

LPS DANGER ASSESSMENT

Suicide – **Threats** – Bullying

Key Concepts for Threat Assessment:

- ✓ School staff, students, and parents need to know basic warning signs and how to report concerns
- ✓ Gathering information into a single vortex is essential for accurate assessment
- ✓ Behavior patterns are better indicators of risk than a student’s words or diagnoses:
 - Normal Behavior (within the scope of typical developmental level/age)
 - Boundary-Probing Behavior (challenging the established rules, norms, expectations)
 - Attack Planning Behavior (making threats, dehumanizing others, taking steps toward action)
 - Attack Related Behavior (obtaining a weapon, attempting to cause violence, etc.)
- ✓ A student’s response to our interventions/barriers is a key indicator in potential risk
- ✓ Inter-agency partnership is essential for effective violence prevention

Implementation Guidance for the Threat Assessment Process in LPS:

QUESTION	TIGHT (Required)	LOOSE (Suggested)
What are the LPS expectations for Danger Assessment Training?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every administrator must attend the training within their first year in LPS • Each year, secondary schools must send at least one administrator and 1-2 mental health staff • A review of warning signs and the reporting process should be reviewed annually with all staff in your building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In rare special circumstances, the training can be conducted with your full team on site at your building
When must a Threat Assessment be conducted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When a student makes a threat to kill, seriously harm, or inflict violence • When there are significant warning signs of potential violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools can consult with an ESC Director when they are unsure whether to initiate the process
When should an ESC administrator be notified?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify an ESC administrator every time you initiate a Threat Assessment process • Notify LPS Security any time we are unsure of a student’s location or concerned about immediate safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check in with an ESC administrator if you are unsure whether to start the process

<p>Who leads the process?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Principal or Assistant Principal should lead the process and be the primary point person for the family • A school mental health professional (counselor, psychologist, social worker) should take the lead in gathering mental health information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If law enforcement initiates their own investigation, we collaborate with them, but still continue our process.
<p>Can we suspend a student while we conduct the Threat Assessment Process?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students should be suspended for the purposes of investigation if we have major unanswered questions and/or have not been able to get sufficient information from key sources • You always have the ability to suspend a student for a Code of Conduct violation related to the incident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School administrators can choose to get an agreement from parents to hold their student out of school for the purpose of investigation and then decide later whether it will stay as a suspension or an excused absence
<p>Who should be interviewed during the process? <i>Interviews can be conducted in person or on the phone, but it is preferable to always interview to the student in person.</i></p>	<p>At a minimum, specific interviews should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student of concern • The student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) • Any staff member involved in the situation (or at least one teacher who knows the student well) • Any outside provider (therapist/doctor/hospital, etc.) who has been working with the student 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional interviews can be conducted with any other teachers/staff/students who might have important information • Additional interviews can be conducted with any other outside persons who may have helpful information (youth minister, coach, etc.)
<p>What information should be gathered? <i>It is important to review key information and look for patterns of behavior that classify as:</i> A. Normal Behaviors B. Boundary-Probing Behaviors C. Attack Planning Behaviors D. Attack-Related Behaviors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the student’s Discipline, Attendance, Counseling, and IEP records • Ask the student’s current teachers for feedback on this student’s recent progress/behaviors • Any specific documents, writings, or internet postings that relate to the concern • Reports or summaries from private providers or facilities (will require a consent form) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask parents for any other information or documents that would be useful in the process
<p>Should we search a student’s personal items or</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the threat of a weapon is involved, a search of the student’s backpack, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more extensive search of internet / virtual information

<p>online accounts? <i>Searches are allowed under the LPS Code of Conduct when there is "Reasonable Suspicion" of risk, but make sure to refer to the policy for specific details.</i></p>	<p>locker, and vehicle should always be conducted. If a high level of potential danger is present, the school can request that law enforcement assist with the search.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all other situations, a basic search of the student’s backpack and locker should be conducted by school administrators. • Administrators do have the option to search a student’s personal possessions, including electronic devices if there is “reasonable suspicion”. 	<p>can be conducted when necessary. This may include involving the LPS Technology Department to assist with accessing email accounts, websites, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure to document the reasons for conducting a search
<p>When should law enforcement be involved?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Resource Officers should be notified and involved from the very start of the process. If there is no SRO on site, the school may contact an SRO from another school or any other police officer for assistance. • Any specific threat to kill someone must be reported to law enforcement immediately. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law enforcement has a higher burden of proof than schools, and may not initiate their own investigation or citation. They also may not address the mental health concerns/risk. • LPS Security can also provide assistance to communicate with law enforcement.
<p>Who notifies the potential target(s)? <i>If there is a specific person targeted, they must be notified and advised of their right to involve law enforcement.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the target of the threat is a student, parent or staff, the school staff should notify the person(s) directly and advise them of their right to involve law enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the target of the threat is not connected to the school in any way, we request that the SRO/Law Enforcement assist us with notifying those persons.
<p>Do we also do a suicide intervention?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask the suicide question to the student EVERY TIME you are doing a threat assessment • Initiate an ASIST Suicide Intervention any time there is a concern or suspicion of suicidality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It may be appropriate to also ask the student’s friends about any red flags for suicide
<p>When do we request an emergency transport to the hospital? <i>If necessary, a law enforcement officer can place a student on an emergency (M1) hold and transport him/her to the hospital. LPS staff cannot do this without the agreement of law enforcement.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a student is actively suicidal, homicidal, or gravely disabled by their mental state, urgent hospitalization should be considered • If there is disagreement between school staff and parents, the law enforcement officer makes the ultimate decision • A school staff <u>must</u> follow to the hospital any time a parent cannot be reached prior to the transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In situations where the level of risk is unclear or parents are resistant to law enforcement/ambulance transport, you may agree to have the parent transport and a school staff follows to the hospital. • Sending a school staff member may not always be possible, but it ensures that accurate information is conveyed
<p>When does a higher-level District review occur? <i>This process includes a review by</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any time a school indicates that there is a HIGH level of risk • Any time there is a specific credible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principals can request a district-level review for a MEDIUM level of risk if they have specific

<p>multiple ESC administrators, LPS Security, and other key agencies with the student and family.</p>	<p>threat to kill a student or staff member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any time a firearm is involved 	<p>concerns</p>
<p>How are Threat Assessments documented and stored in student records?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any <u>Medium</u> or <u>High</u> Level Threat should be entered into the Behavior Management section of Infinite Campus (even if no discipline is given). Use the TAAP code and give a brief summary of the incident and the outcome of the Threat Assessment. A copy of <u>all</u> finalized Threat Assessments should be kept in the discipline file at the school. An copy of all Threat Assessments and related investigation documentation should be sent to ESC attn: Nate Thompson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff can enter other notes in the IC Counseling Log related to the concerns/interventions. Anything entered will be subject to records requests. Staff may keep private personal working files on students, but if those are ever shared with colleagues or supervisors, they can be subject to records requests.
<p>Who is responsible for monitoring a student after they have a Threat Assessment?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school team, led by an administrator should establish and manage the safety and monitoring plan for each student A District-wide review of all LPS safety indicators is conducted weekly by ESC administrators and LPS Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SRO’s and law enforcement can be involved in ongoing monitoring and sometimes even for additional surveillance measures Parents should be highly involved and commit to report any concerning behaviors
<p>Who else in the school should be told about the Threat Assessment?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any student or staff who was a potential target should be notified Any staff person who has a need to act should be notified. (For example, all of the current teachers should know since they have a part in monitoring the safety plan) School staff responsible for security should be notified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In certain situations, it may be appropriate to notify larger groups such as the entire school staff or groups of students/parents.
<p>Does a student ever get “released” from a Threat Assessment?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As students are successful at following the safety and supervision plan, the plan and monitoring should be adjusted The student’s name will stay on a district-level monitoring list through the end of their time in LPS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We want this to be recoverable for students and families. It is important to share their successes with your staff just as much as we would share concerns.