

Resources for Schools and Districts



Identify and address threatening or concerning behaviors before they lead to violence.

Reporting on a variety of concerning student behaviors and other suspicious activities provides authorities and school personnel with the information they need to stop violence before it occurs. Schools should establish a reporting system that is continually monitored and allows for anonymous reporting. Having a threat assessment program, or a multidisciplinary group process, to evaluate these reports and respond to threats can significantly reduce violence, including mass casualty attacks.

5 Key Strategies



Form a threat assessment team. Start with one or two school administrators, then expand the team to include representation from a variety of disciplines, including teachers, school counselors, law enforcement, and mental health providers.



Provide training to team members. Set up a schedule for the team to meet and train together regularly.



Create a plan. Establish comprehensive written plans and procedures for the threat assessment process.



Communicate with stakeholders. Share information about your school's threat assessment policy with faculty, staff, students, and families.



Assess outcomes. Continually review the results and outcomes associated with reported threats and other concerning behaviors to improve the threat assessment process.



Visit [SchoolSafety.gov](https://www.schoolsafety.gov) to access threat assessment and reporting resources and guidance and follow [@SchoolSafetyGov on Twitter](https://twitter.com/SchoolSafetyGov) for additional school safety updates.

Resources

SchoolSafety.gov is home to resources, strategies, and tools the kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) academic community can reference to support the implementation of threat assessment and reporting initiatives at schools.

- [Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model: An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence](#) (Department of Homeland Security) – Guidance from the U.S. Secret Service provides actionable steps schools can take to develop comprehensive targeted violence prevention plans.
- [School Safety: Research on Gathering Tips and Addressing Threats](#) (Department of Justice) – New research suggests that schools should have a systematic and coordinated approach in place to gather and process information on threats, respond appropriately, and document the response.
- [Averting Targeted School Violence: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Plots Against Schools](#) (Department of Homeland Security) – This recently released U.S. Secret Service report, which examines 67 plots to conduct a school attack that were averted, identifies key findings and commonalities across potential targeted violence incidents.
- [Addressing the Risk of Violent Behavior in Youth: Know the Signs of Youth Violence and How to Identify and Reduce Risk in Schools](#) (Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services) – This 90-minute presentation, produced by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in partnership with the Department of Education, is designed to help teachers and school personnel identify behaviors and other signs that could result in youth violence.
- [REMS TA Center School Behavioral Threat Assessments: An Introduction](#) (Department of Education) – This one-day training, offered through the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance (TA) Center, familiarizes schools and school districts with school behavioral threat assessments in preventing and reducing targeted violence at K–12 schools.
- National Threat Evaluation and Reporting Program (Department of Homeland Security) – The National Threat Evaluation & Reporting (NTER) Program offers a Behavioral Threat Assessment Train-the-Trainer Program. This Master Trainer Program (MTP) certifies federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial homeland security partners in behavioral threat assessment. The MTP teaches candidates to identify and assess risk and warning signs, and manage potential threats of future, targeted violence, regardless of motive. For more information, please email NTER.MTP@hq.dhs.gov.

