School Threat Assessment & Intervention Training

A Tool to Prevent School Violence and Promote Wellness

Threat Assessment and Intervention

Schools throughout Montana are taking steps to make schools safer while simultaneously supporting student wellbeing by implementing a threat assessment and intervention procedure.

A threat assessment is a violence prevention strategy that that aims to:

- Identify students who may be planning to commit an act of violence
- Determine the seriousness of the threat of violence
- Intervene to prevent the act from occurring and address the underlying problem or conflict

Threat Assessments and Interventions can:

Increase School Safety

Support Students

Promote Better Health

Is your school interested in Threat Assessment and Intervention Training?

In partnership with the University of Montana Safe Schools Center, the Office of Public Instruction is working to provide threat assessment training opportunities for schools.

If you have questions or concerns regarding student safety or well-being, please reach out to Dwight Nelson, Student Safety & Wellness Specialist with the Montana Office of Public Instruction at dwight.nelson@mt.gov or 406-519-8834.

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Increase School Safety

- **Threat assessments were developed to help identify threats to safety before an incident occurs.[1]**
- **When included as part of a school's safety plan, threat assessments are a highly effective prevention tool.[1]**

Support Students

- **Threat assessments are an alternative to *Zero Tolerance* policies and promote restorative practices.[2]**
- **Schools with threat assessments in place report less bullying and a more positive school climate.[3]**

Promote Better Health

- **Threat assessments aim to identify root causes of concerning behaviors and applies a team approach to supporting students in addressing those root issues.[4]**
- **Threat assessments identify behavioral health concerns.[4]**

Creating a Safe and Connected School Climate

Creating cultures and climates of safety is essential to the prevention of violence in schools. It is recommended that schools incorporate threat assessment and interventions as part of larger efforts to promote school safety.[4] To create a culture and climate of safety a schools are encouraged to:[4]

- Assess and promote a positive school climate that emphasizes connectedness and equality
- Implement a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) for supporting behavioral health needs
- Actively promote positive relationship building between students and school staff
- Create opportunities to empower students to be involved in school safety planning
- Create open lines of communication between students, school staff, and the greater community
- Actively prevent and respond to bullying whenever it occurs

For more information on creating a safe and connected school climate, please check out the resources available through the Office of Public Instruction's Emergency Planning and Safety site, School Mental Health site, and the National Center on Safe and Supportive Learning.