Threat Assessment Procedures

The Threat Assessment Team (TAT) is comprised of North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics staff members who are responsible for identifying, assessing, and managing threats in order to foster a safe campus environment.

Why is Threat Assessment Necessary?
The goal of threat assessment is to intervene before an attack or any intended harm can occur. Incidents of targeted violence at schools are rarely sudden, impulsive acts. Prior to most incidents, other people knew about the attacker’s idea and/or plan to attack. Most attackers did not threaten their targets prior to advancing the attack. However, they engaged in some behavior, prior to the incident that caused concern or indicated a need for help.

Many were known to have difficulty coping with life or had personal failures. Some considered or attempted suicide. They felt bullied, persecuted, or injured by others prior to the attack. The key to threat assessment is to discover these persons and get them help.

The Safe School Initiative Study, revealed ten key findings related to “targeted school violence,” these findings are listed below.
Incidents of targeted violence at school are rarely sudden, impulsive acts.

Prior to most incidents, other people knew about the attacker’s idea and/or plan to attack.

Most attackers did not threaten their targets directly prior to advancing to attack.

There is no accurate or useful “profile” of students who engaged in targeted school violence.

Most attackers engage in some behavior prior to the incident that caused others concern or indicated a need for help.

Most attackers had difficulty coping with significant losses or personal failures. Moreover, many had considered or attempted suicide.

Many attackers felt bullied, persecuted, or injured by others prior to the attack.

Most attackers had access to and had used weapons prior to the attack.

In many cases, other students were involved in some capacity.

Despite prompt law enforcement responses, most shootings incidents were stopped by means other than law enforcement intervention.

The findings of the Safe School Initiative suggest that some future school attacks may be preventable. The fact that most attackers engaged in pre-incident planning
behavior and shared their intentions and plans with others, suggests that those conducting threat assessment inquires or investigations may uncover these types of information.

**Therefore:**
It is the responsibility of all employees and students at NCSSM to be alert to the possibility of violence on the part of prospective, current or former employees or students as well as campus visitors.

**Campus Members Responsibilities:**
It is the responsibility of faculty, staff and students to immediately report any acts of violence, threatening comments, threatening behaviors or other related violations to any of the following:

- A staff member of Campus Resources
- A student life staff member
- A staff member of Counseling Service.
- A staff member of the Chancellor’s Office or a Vice Chancellor’s Office.
- If an employee, to an immediate supervisor (or a second level supervisor if the alleged perpetrator is the immediate supervisor)

*Reporting may be done anonymously*

However, when there is an active or immediate risk of violence to self or others Campus Resources should be
contacted at 919-416-2711. If a life threatening emergency call 911 first.

**Must Report:**
Potentially threatening situations that must be reported by employees or students may include, but not limited to:

- Verbal or overt threats made directly against students, faculty, staff or other campus officials.
- Threats made indirectly by telephone, text messaging, in writing, over any forms of social media or through interpersonal contacts.
- Any communication or behavior suggesting an individual's intent of committing suicide or potential violent act.
- Weapon-seeking or weapon-using behavior.
- Communications or writings that suggest that the student has an unusual or worrisome interest in school attacks.
- Anger problems wherein the individual has difficulty controlling anger.
- Behavior relating to stalking of a particular individual or individuals.
- Behavior related to violence or cruelty.
- Behavior that indicates that an attack is being planned.