

Behavior Threat Assessment (BTA) Policy 2130 Crosswalk

SBBC Policy 2130 Language	State Legislation and Other Sources
SECTION III: DISTRICT/SCHOOL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	
<p>A. The Chief Safety & Security Officer (Chief) shall ensure compliance with this policy.</p>	<p>Rule 6A-1.0018: <i>School safety specialists are responsible for the supervision and oversight for all school safety and security personnel, policies, and procedures in the school district, including at charter schools.</i></p> <p>MSD Commission Report: <i>MSDHSPSA requires each school district to designate a threat assessment team at each school and requires the team to operate under the district school safety specialist's direction.</i></p>
<p>A. Each school principal shall identify members of a BTA team that includes persons with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration, and law enforcement. Members will be trained on the roles and responsibilities of each team member.</p>	<p>SB7026: <i>Each district school board shall adopt policies for the establishment of threat assessment teams at each school whose duties include the coordination of resources and assessment and intervention with individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of school staff or students consistent with the model policies developed by the Office of Safe Schools. A threat assessment team shall include persons with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration, and law enforcement</i></p>
<p>B. All school-based administrators and BTA team members must attend and complete mandatory district threat assessment trainings annually. Each mandatory team member shall report their completion of this requirement to their supervisor.</p>	<p>Rule 6A-1.0018: <i>All threat assessment team members must be trained on the CSTAG model.</i></p>
<p>C. The BTA team at each school must provide annual training and guidance to students, staff, and parents on recognizing behaviors of concern, their roles and responsibilities in reporting the behavior, and the various options for submitting a report, including anonymous reporting.</p>	<p>SB 7026: <i>The threat assessment teams shall identify members of the school community to whom threatening behavior should be reported and provide guidance to students, faculty, and staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self.</i></p> <p>MSD Commission Report: <i>All school personnel should receive mandated training on behavior indicators that should be referred to the TAT for assessment.</i></p>

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	FLDOE Model Behavioral Threat Assessment Policies & Best Practices for K-12 Schools: Threat assessment teams should identify all means of reporting threats, including FortifyFL (the statewide mobile suspicious activity reporting tool) and any similar reporting tools or apps used by the school district. Local hotlines, websites or other community-based resources should also be identified.
D. Each school principal must assign school-based staff members who can proactively monitor and respond to all incoming reports where safety is of concern.	FLDOE Model Behavioral Threat Assessment Policies & Best Practices for K-12: Threat assessment teams should identify members of the school community to whom threatening behavior should be reported.
D. All SBBC employees, volunteers, and contractors are required to report to school administration any expressed threat(s) or behavior(s) that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self. Threats that are not easily recognized as harmless should be reported to the school administrator or other team member(s).	MSD Commission Report: Reporting observed behaviors to the TAT should be mandatory. There should be sanctions for non-reporting.)
E. Each BTA team must respond, within 24 hours when school is in session, to any report of a threat or any patterns of behavior that may pose a threat to self or others. If school is not in session, and the school principal becomes aware of a threat or a pattern of behavior by a student that may pose a threat to self or others, he/she shall immediately refer the matter to law enforcement for evaluation, and the threat assessment team must meet no later than the end of the first day school is back in session to consider the matter and ensure it is resolved.	<p>MSD Commission Report: TATs should be required to convene within 24 hours of receiving a referral when school is in session. If school is not in session, the TAT must refer the matter to law enforcement for evaluation, and the TAT must meet no later than the end of the first day school is back in session to consider the matter and ensure it is resolved.</p> <p>FLDOE Model Behavioral Threat Assessment Policies & Best Practices for K-12: When a threat is reported, the threat assessment team should begin an initial evaluation of the situation pursuant to district policies. It is considered a best practice to begin this evaluation the same day the report is received.</p>

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SECTION IV: BTA TEAM RESPONSES	
<p>A. When assessing a potential threat or concerning behavior, an administrator and at least one other school based BTA team member must evaluate the threat by obtaining a detailed account of the threat, usually by interviewing the person who made the threat, the intended victim, and other witnesses. The initial key question is whether there is a communication or behavior that suggests an intent to harm someone.</p> <p>i. If the answer is no, the administrator and the previously selected BTA team member(s) will proceed to complete the required portions of the BTA process. However, even if there is no intent to harm, statements or behaviors may still merit attention, intervention, or services, which can be determined by the BTA Team or the appropriate school-based team (e.g., Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) Team, Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team, etc.)</p> <p>ii. For students deemed a threat to self, the BTA team members must ensure the student’s immediate safety, then refer the student to the school-based suicide prevention designee. The suicide prevention designee will meet with the student and assess the severity of the risk following the Suicide Prevention Handbook guidelines.</p> <p>iii. If the answer is yes, and the preliminary determination by the BTA team members determines that a student poses a threat to others, the entire BTA team is responsible for assessing the level of threat by conducting student/parent interviews, reviewing all pertinent records, and following the district’s threat assessment procedures.</p>	<p>FLDOE Model Behavioral Threat Assessment Policies & Best Practices for K-12: <i>Many threat assessment teams employ a triage process, where the school administrator or threat assessment team leader works with at least one other member of the team to complete this initial evaluation.</i></p> <p>FLDOE Model Behavioral Threat Assessment Policies & Best Practices for K-12: <i>Threat assessment teams should coordinate with other multidisciplinary teams available in the school or district to ensure that all available resources are provided to students in need of support.</i></p> <p><i>For students deemed a threat to self, the BTA team members must ensure the student’s immediate safety, then refer the student to the school-based suicide prevention designee. The suicide prevention designee will meet with the student and assess the severity of the risk following the Suicide Prevention Handbook guidelines. SOURCE:</i></p> <p>FLDOE Model Behavioral Threat Assessment Policies & Best Practices for K-12: <i>If there is a threat of suicide or self-harm, additional mental health assessments are needed. These are done outside the threat assessment process unless there is also a threat to harm others. While threat assessment and suicide risk assessment are generally two separate processes, there may be cases where</i></p>

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	<p><i>both a threat to others and a threat to self are present. Threat assessment teams should involve mental and behavioral health experts to ensure the correct screenings and referrals are completed.</i></p> <p>FLDOE Model Behavioral Threat Assessment Policies & Best Practices for K-12: Substantive threats should engage several team members and may require more in-depth review and assessment.</p>
<p>B. Upon a determination by the BTA team members that a student poses a threat, all BTA threat determinations must be reported to the school principal or his/her administrative designee. The principal or his/her administrative designee will serve as the Superintendent's designee.</p>	<p>SB 7026: <i>Upon a preliminary determination that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to himself or herself or others, a threat assessment team shall immediately report its determination to the superintendent or his or her designee.</i></p>
<p>C. Upon a determination by the BTA team members that a student poses a threat, the principal or his/her administrative designee, who is participating in the BTA, shall immediately attempt to notify the student's parent or legal guardian. The principal or his/her administrative designee will serve as the Superintendent's designee.</p>	<p>SB 7026: <i>The superintendent or his or her designee shall immediately attempt to notify the student's parent or legal guardian.</i></p>
<p>D. Upon a determination by the BTA team members that an individual poses a threat, authorized members of the BTA team may request and obtain criminal history record information, pursuant to s.985.04(1).</p> <p><i>i.</i> No member of a BTA team shall re-disclose any criminal history record information or health information obtained or use any record of an individual beyond the purpose for which such disclosure was made to the threat assessment team.</p>	<p>SB 7026: <i>Upon a preliminary determination by the threat assessment team that a student poses a threat of violence to himself or herself or others or exhibits significantly disruptive behavior or need for assistance, the threat assessment team may obtain criminal history record information, as provided in s. 985.047.</i></p> <p>SB7026: <i>A member of a threat assessment team may not disclose any criminal history record information obtained pursuant to this section or otherwise use any record of an individual beyond the purpose for which such disclosure was made to the threat assessment team</i></p>

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<p>ii. The BTA team may not maintain the criminal history record or place it in the student’s educational file.</p> <p>iii. The BTA team must consult with law enforcement when a student exhibits a pattern of behavior, based upon previous acts, or the severity of an act, that would pose a threat to school safety.</p>	<p>SB 7026: <i>Requires the threat assessment team to consult with law enforcement when a student exhibits a pattern of behavior, based upon previous acts or the severity of an act, that would pose a threat to school safety.</i></p>
<p>E. The BTA team must coordinate resources to provide intervention to individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of school staff or students consistent with the model policies developed by the Office of Safe Schools.</p> <p>i. The BTA team must plan for the implementation and monitoring of appropriate interventions in order to manage or mitigate the student’s risk for engaging in violence and increasing the likelihood of positive outcomes.</p> <p>ii. Interventions should remain in place until the BTA team assesses that the student is no longer in need of supports and does not pose a threat to self or others.</p>	<p>SB 7026: <i>Each district school board shall adopt policies for the establishment of threat assessment teams at each school whose duties include the coordination of resources and assessment and intervention with individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of school staff or students consistent with the model policies developed by the Office of Safe Schools.)</i></p> <p>FLDOE Model Behavioral Threat Assessment Policies & Best Practices for K-12: <i>Threat assessment is a problem-solving approach to violence prevention that involves assessment and intervention with students who have threatened violence. It is a fact-based process that emphasizes identification, evaluation, intervention and follow-up in order to prevent serious threats of harm or actual acts of violence from occurring</i></p>
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SECTION V: FOLLOW-UP AND INTERVENTIONS	
<p>A. BTA teams shall follow established procedures for referrals to school-based, community, and/or health care providers for mental health services, evaluation, or treatment.</p>	<p>SB 7026: <i>Such policies shall include procedures for referrals to mental health services identified by the school district pursuant to s. 1012.584(4), when appropriate.</i></p>

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<p>B. The school principal will review the documentation for all threat assessments to ensure completeness and fidelity. The school principal will sign/acknowledge that the BTA documentation is complete and will forward the signed/acknowledged assessment to their supervisor.</p>	<p>MSD Commission Report: <i>Principals should be required to be informed of every threat assessment, and the principal should approve the disposition of every assessment.</i></p>
<p>C. If an immediate mental health or substance abuse crisis is suspected, school personnel must follow policies to engage behavioral health crisis resources, including, but not limited to, mobile crisis teams and school resource officers, who have been trained in crisis intervention. These individuals shall provide emergency intervention and assessment, make recommendations, and refer the student for appropriate services. BTA teams shall contact other agencies involved with the student and any known service providers to share information and coordinate necessarily follow up. Any information from education records disclosed during this process shall be done in accordance with The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (34 CFR §99.31(10), §99.36).</p>	<p>SB 7026: <i>If an immediate mental health or substance abuse crisis is suspected, school personnel shall follow policies established by the threat assessment team to engage behavioral health crisis resources. Behavioral health crisis resources, including, but not limited to, mobile crisis teams and school resource officers trained in crisis intervention, shall provide emergency intervention and assessment, make recommendations, and refer the student for appropriate services. Onsite school personnel shall report all such situations and actions taken to the threat assessment team, which shall contact the other agencies involved with the student and any known service providers to share information and coordinate any necessary follow-up actions.</i></p>
<p>D. The BTA team shall identify additional members of the school community to whom threatening behavior should be reported and provide guidance to students, faculty, and staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self.</p>	<p>SB 7026: <i>Threat assessment teams shall identify members of the school community to whom threatening behavior should be reported and provide guidance to students, faculty, and staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self.</i></p>
<p>E. BTA records are considered education records and shall be maintained and released in accordance with FERPA and state statute. The BTA process is a substantive decision-making process and therefore is not subject to the amendment process as described in School Board Policy 5100.1(V). The BTA, its determination, along with any interventions provided, will be recorded in the</p>	<p>FLDOE Model Behavioral Threat Assessment Policies & Best Practices for K-12: <i>Education records are any records or documents, including information derived from those records or documents, that are directly related to a student and are maintained by an educational agency or institution, or by a party acting for the agency or institution. 34 C.F.R. s. 99.3. In most cases, this includes student health and mental health records</i></p>

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<p>appropriate electronic data systems by the threat assessment team. Additionally, these records will be transferred pursuant to School Board Policy 5100.2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Upon the student's transfer to a different school, within the district, the threat assessment team shall verify that any intervention services provided to the student remain in place until the threat assessment team of the receiving school independently determines the need for intervention services. The receiving school-based administrator will receive an alert and must follow up with the intervention implementation within 72 hours. F.S. §1003.25 requires the records to be transferred to include verified reports of serious recurrent behavior patterns, including BTA and interventions, psychological evaluations, therapeutic treatment plans and therapy and progress notes created by school ii. Upon notification of the student's transfer to an out-of-district school, the BTA team will confirm that intervention services remain available, as applicable, until the BTA team of the receiving school independently determines the need for intervention services. Transfer of student records will occur upon request from another district or parent/guardian. 	<p><i>maintained by an educational agency or institution. Law enforcement unit records, as defined by 34 C.F.R. ss. 99.3 and 99.8, are not considered education records.</i></p> <p>SB7030: <i>Upon the student's transfer to a different school, the threat assessment team shall verify that any intervention services provided to the student remain in place until the threat assessment team of the receiving school independently determines the need for intervention services.</i></p> <p>SB7030: <i>Upon the student's transfer to a different school, the threat assessment team shall verify that any intervention services provided to the student remain in place until the threat assessment team of the receiving school independently determines the need for intervention services.</i></p>

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<p>F. In addition to the BTA activities, disciplinary action and referral to law enforcement are to occur as required by law and school board policies.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. If a student is facing possible expulsion or suspension because of certain actions, the school should consider ways in which these can be safely enacted and identify resources that may assist the student during this time. In addition, alternatives to expulsion or referral to law enforcement agencies may be used, unless the use of such alternatives will pose a threat to school safety.</p>	<p>SB7030: District school boards shall promote a safe and supportive learning environment in schools by protecting students and staff from conduct that poses a serious threat to school safety. A threat assessment team may use alternatives to expulsion or referral to law enforcement agencies to address disruptive behavior.</p> <p>FLDOE Model Behavioral Threat Assessment Policies & Best Practices for K-12: Districts can consider the use of alternatives to expulsion or law enforcement involvement where appropriate. While threat assessment is a separate process from student discipline, the actions and behaviors that bring a student to the attention of a threat assessment team can lead to disciplinary action and law enforcement involvement in some cases.</p>
<p>G. Nothing in this policy shall preclude school personnel from acting immediately to address an imminent threat and to report to the school principal, and/or his/her administrative designee, that an individual poses a threat of violence or physical harm to self or others.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. Where an immediate threat to life or physical safety exists, reports must result in an immediate notification to law enforcement.</p>	<p>SB 7026: Nothing in this subsection shall preclude school district personnel from acting immediately to address an imminent threat.</p> <p>FLDOE Model Behavioral Threat Assessment Policies & Best Practices for K-12: If there is an indication that violence is imminent, such as when a person is at school with a gun, a crisis response is indicated. School staff must take immediate action by calling 911 and following local crisis or emergency response plans.</p>
<p>H. The Chief Auditor will conduct annual audits, in compliance with this policy, and report findings to the Audit Committee and The School Board. Superintendent's addition to the Policy at the School Board Workshop in 2019.</p>	

Policy Custodian: Office of Academics

Authority: F.S. §1006.07(7); F.S. §1006.13; F.S. §1003.25

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History: Adopted: 3/5/2019, Revised: 10/20/2020

In addition to statutory requirements, the Broward's BTA Policy included the recommendations from the MSD Commission Report and the FLDOE Model Behavioral Threat Assessment Policies & Best Practices for K-12.

ORIGINAL SOURCES:

6A-1.0018 : School Safety Requirements and Monitoring

<https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleNo.asp?id=6A-1.0018>

FLDOE Model Behavioral Threat Assessment Policies & Best Practices for K-12:

<https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/18612/urlt/threat-assessment-model-policies.pdf>

MSD Commission Report:

<http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/MSDHS/CommissionReport.pdf>

SB7026 - Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/07026>

SB7030 - Implementation of Legislative Recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2019/07030>