

## Operational Services

### Exhibit - Targeted School Violence Prevention and Threat Assessment Education

*On District letterhead*

Date:

To: District Staff and Parents

From: Building Principal

Re: Targeted School Violence Prevention Program

Our District has a standard procedure for responding to student threats of violence. Below is a brief synopsis of situations where school officials want individuals to bring forth information identifying a threat or situation of concern to the Building Principal. Once identified, the Building Principal will determine whether a threat exists and whether to engage in further investigation.

Any situation or student of concern should be brought forward. Threat assessment is a valuable component of a comprehensive approach to preventing targeted school violence. The identification of threats is everyone's responsibility: our students, parents, staff, and community members.

#### What Is a Threat?

A threat is an expression of intent to harm someone that may be spoken, written, or expressed in some other way, such as through gestures. Threats may be direct (*I'm going to beat you up* or *I'm going to blow this place up!*) or indirect (*Come and watch what I am going to do to him/her.*). A threat can be vague (*I'm going to hurt him.*) or implied (*You better watch out.*). Any possession of a weapon or mention of one is a possible threat. Sometimes students make threats that are in fun or may be "just kidding" but sometimes a threat is very serious and/or criminal. When you are in doubt as to whether the statement is kidding or serious, the responsible thing to do is to report it.

#### What Can Staff and Parents Do?

Educate students about what a threat is, encourage students not to make threats in the first place, and reiterate that seeking help to prevent someone from getting hurt or hurting another is appropriate.