

School Safety and Threat Assessment Programs



The School District of Lee County is continuing to take steps to protect our children and employees from threats of violence in our schools.

Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management is an important aspect of that effort as a behavioral approach to violence prevention. This involves a multi-disciplinary team to evaluate the risk of violence posed by someone and develop intervention plans to resolve the issues that underlie the threatening behavior before they escalate into violent behavior. The goals of threat assessment are to keep schools safe and to help troubled students overcome the underlying sources of their anger, hopelessness, or despair. Effective threat assessment provides school professionals with useful information about a student's risks and personal resources. Among the other potential student risks that can be identified and prevented are suicide, alcohol and drug use, physical abuse, dropping out, and criminal activity.

Educational Program for Parents and Students

New online educational programs on school safety are available. These brief programs help students aged 12 and up and parents understand the threat assessment process to prevent violence.

The programs were successfully field-tested in 2016-17; all groups demonstrated large gains in knowledge of threat assessment and improved willingness to report threats to school officials after completing the programs.

We encourage all students aged 12 and up and parents of all students in the District to complete these programs. We also encourage parents to be available to discuss any questions your student may have after viewing the program. Please address any questions about the District's threat assessment policy and threat reporting to your child's school administrator or the district Threat Assessment Coordinator.

The student program (15-minutes) and the Parent program (25 minutes) is a way to learn about the threat assessment process used in your school and how it can prevent violence. You will be asked to identify your school, but not yourself, when completing

the program. An excerpt from the student program can be previewed here:
<https://youtu.be/H7wl20-TN2w>.

The programs can be accessed through the website: www.schoolthreatassessment.com

The code for parents to complete the program is **pyd8hc**

The code for students to complete the program is **sqr8dp**

These programs help schools meet the requirement for threat assessment teams to “provide guidance to students, faculty and staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the community, or school...” (Florida Statute §1006.07 (7); School Board Policy 2.16; and procedures established for threat assessment teams)

This project is being conducted by the Youth Violence Project of the Curry School of Education, University of Virginia, in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Department of Education. It is supported by Grant #NIJ 2014-CK-BX-0004 awarded by the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Dr. Dewey Cornell is the project’s principal investigator and Dr. Jennifer Maeng is the project director and can be contacted with questions at jlc7d@virginia.edu.

Contact us:

Phone: 239-337- 8590

Email: threatassessments@leeschools.net

Emergency or imminent threats: dial 911

Anonymous tips through FortifyFL: <https://getfortifyfl.com/>