

August 21, 2016

Fair Notice of Student Threat Assessment

The Cowichan Valley School District is committed to ensuring a safe school environment for staff and students. To do so, the Cowichan Valley School District must prepare for any eventuality – including the potential for threats and violence. While our schools are safe environments, the School District has taken steps so that we are prepared to assess and respond to threats to our students, staff and buildings.

Key members of the Cowichan Valley School District have been involved in intensive safety training in the field of Threat Assessment. Together with the RCMP, Ministry of Children and Family Development, and other various community partners, our District has developed a Violence Threat Risk Assessment protocol for responding to all situations where students may pose a risk, either to themselves or others.

The Cowichan Valley School District Violence Threat Risk Assessment protocol requires Principals to complete a threat assessment of students making significant and serious threats of harm to themselves or others. The threat assessment is a process to protect students and staff from harm and also for determining how to best support students whose behavior has become threatening. If at any time a Principal invites you to a meeting to discuss the protocol and/or concerns about your own child's behavior, the goal of the threat assessment is safety, not punishment.

This letter serves as fair notice to our schools, and our community, that we will actively respond to any serious threat. Only in this way can we ensure a healthy and caring learning environment.