Operational Services

Exhibit - Threat Assessment Decision Tree

IDENTIFICATION

Step 1.Evaluate threat.

Interview student target of threat, and other witnesses; notify all parents/guardians involved.
Document all interviews.
Consider the circumstances of the threat and the student's intentions.

Step 2.Decide whether threat is clearly transient or substantive.

Consider collected information, student's age, credibility, and previous discipline history.

Transient - low-level, dissipates easily, anger or frustration, responsive to humor.

Substantive - medium/high level, sustained intent to harm beyond immediate incident, meaning unclear.

INVESTIGATION

Step 3.Respond to transient threat.

Typical responses are parental notification, mandated mediation and/or counseling, and low-level discipline (e.g., reprimand, apology, or other disciplinary action).

Step 4.Assess substantive threat as serious or very serious.

Serious threat - assault, strike, or beat-up someone.

Very serious threat - weapons, kill, sexual assault, or inflict severe injury.

Manage the student.

Consider contacting Board attorney.

RESPONSE

Step 5.Respond to serious threat.

Protect potential targets and notify parents.
Consider contacting law enforcement.
Refer student for counseling, dispute mediation, or other appropriate intervention.
Discipline student as appropriate to severity and chronicity of situation.

Step 6.Respond to very serious threat.

Refer to School Resource Officer or law enforcement for investigation.
Ensure immediate protection of potential targets, notify the target and target's parents.
Refer to School Resource Officer or law enforcement for investigation.
Begin a mental health evaluation of the student.
Conduct safety evaluation, psychological assessment, law enforcement investigation.

Step 7.Implement a written safety plan.

Discipline student as appropriate to findings.
Maintain contact with the student.
Revise plan as needed.