

## VIOLENCE THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT (VTRA)

### **Purpose:**

The primary purpose of multidisciplinary Violence, Threat, Risk Assessment (VTRA) is to identify indicators that suggest a student may be moving on a pathway towards violence against him/herself or others and intervene to decrease that risk, prevent injury, and support the student in receiving the help necessary to address the issues contributing to the high-risk behaviour.

In the context of this policy, VTRA will trump suspension.

### **Definition of high Risk Student Behaviours**

Examples of high-risk behaviours addressed in this protocol include but are not limited to:

- \* Serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill
- \* Verbal/written threats to kill others (clear, direct, and plausible)
- \* Internet (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, etc.) text messaging, threats to kill others
- \* Possession of weapons (including replicas)
- \* Bomb threats (making and/or detonating explosive devices)
- \* Fire Setting
- \* Sexual intimidation or assault
- \* Gang related intimidation and violence

### **Zero Tolerance:**

Under-reacting or over-reacting to threats is a concern. An alternative standard then is that schools have “**zero tolerance for not responding to serious violence or threat-making behaviours**”. In other words, all high-risk behaviours will be taken seriously and high-risk students will be assessed accordingly. Determining what actions will be taken in any case (legal, disciplinary, mental health evaluation, etc.) will depend on the context of the incident.

### **Fair Notice:**

Students, parents, and staff will be provided with information about policy, procedures, and protocol so that “**fair notice**” is given that violence or threats of violence will not be tolerated. Administrators will make the information available on an annual basis.

### **Expectation of Responsible Reporting:**

All staff and students or any member of the school community having knowledge of high-risk student behaviour or having reasonable grounds to believe there is a potential for high-risk or violent behaviour should promptly report the information to the school principal and/or his/her designates. Students who seek adult support for worrisome behaviour are not “ratting or snitching” but, rather, are behaving in a socially responsible manner for the wellbeing of all. “Code of silence” will be actively countered.

There will be no action taken against a person who makes a report unless the report is made maliciously and without reasonable grounds. In such exceptional cases, the person making the malicious report should be dealt with according to school jurisdiction policy and law, where applicable.

For more information talk to the School Administrator, Student Services Coordinator or FLBSD Superintendent.

More information regarding the FLBSD policy can be found under policies on the web page.