



Frequently Asked Questions

<p>How do I ensure I am keeping my school safe?</p>	<p>The PPS Threat of Violence Protocol provides a consistent way of reporting, collecting and communicating information about a threat. Careful data collection, communication and consultation are fundamental to school safety.</p> <p>The focus needs to be on understanding the content and context of a particular threat to determine the seriousness of the situation and to identify the level of appropriate action. In the majority of cases there is time to collect a substantial amount of information to be used in decision-making. The PPS Threat of Violence Protocol is designed to assist school and community teams in responding appropriately when threats do occur.</p> <p>When mental health professionals and law enforcement are involved they will make recommendations to ensure school safety including plans for parent engagement and for further mental health services. These recommendations as well as information from key school staff should inform any actions the school may take. Central office staff including the departments of Student Services, Security Services, School Climate and Discipline, and Senior Directors, are also available to help you.</p>
<p>What about “Risk Assessments?”</p>	<p>Best practices in mental health indicate that a comprehensive mental health assessment is a sufficient recommendation in most instances. Risk assessments are narrowly focused and are considered a specialty assessment that will sometimes follow the comprehensive mental health assessment. “Risk Assessment” is the language qualified mental health providers use when they determine more evaluation is needed. Qualified mental health personnel in cases such as fire setting, sexually reactive or predatory behavior, and/or violent behaviors may request specialty assessments.</p> <p>Multnomah County Crisis Line, Project Respond and Crisis Prevention Outreach (CPO) personnel are highly trained in responding to psychiatric emergencies including threats of violence. These Qualified Mental Health Professionals can assist you in identifying the level of school and community response that is appropriate given the particular situation.</p>
<p>Who do I talk to about threats of violence?</p>	<p>If you are responding to a threat of violence, please follow protocols which indicate who to involve when.</p> <p>If you are preparing your school to know how to respond when a threat of violence occurs, or need training on the use of the protocol contact Student Services.</p>

If you have questions about exclusionary discipline in response to a threat of violence, contact the department of School Climate and Discipline.