

August 1, 2023

Dear Parkland Parents/Guardians,

Parkland School District is committed to improving its programs to increase the safety and security for our school community. It will implement the mandates recommended by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency as promulgated in Act 18 of 2019.

The purpose of threat assessment is to proactively mitigate violence and resolve conflict that underlie threatening behavior. This research-based approach is considered best practice and therefore endorsed by the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Secret Service. Threat assessment is considered a vital component to any comprehensive school district safety program.

The law requires each school entity to establish at least one threat assessment team for the assessment of and intervention with students whose behavior may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community, or others. The District has elected to create a threat assessment team at each building. It also establishes notification and referral requirements and procedures for when a team makes a preliminary determination that a student's behavior may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others. In order to carry out its duties, the threat assessment team must be given access to certain student data that is usually kept confidential, to the extent such access is permissible under federal law. County agencies and departments are required to consult with the threat assessment team in order to help the team carry out its duties, to the extent such agencies can do so in compliance with various state and federal laws.

The Parkland School District Safety and Security Department webpage will host additional information relative to threat assessment. Feel free to contact your building principal or myself with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Anthony M. Naradko, Ed.D.