



Halton District School Board

Fair Notice to Parents/Guardians

September 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter is to inform you that the Halton District School Board has participated in the development of a region wide Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol along with our community partners. This Protocol enables us to more effectively respond to situations where students may pose a threat to themselves or others.

Threat assessment protocols are mandated for every board in Ontario. The purpose of a VTRA is to determine how best to support the student so their behaviour does not become violent or self-injurious. Please note that other community partners such as the Halton Regional Police Service and community youth agencies may become involved in the VTRA because it is critical to have as much information available as possible in order to provide effective support to children in need. The VTRA protocol outlines how a school responds immediately to threatening incidents including but not limited to: possession of a weapon or replica weapon; bomb threat or plan; verbal or written (including electronic) threats to harm oneself or others, and fire setting. The initial response team will include the Principal or Vice Principal, the Halton Regional Police Service, and Board staff; other community partners and additional Board staff may be included as necessary.

Parents and guardians will be notified if their child will be discussed at a VTRA. If parents/guardians cannot be reached, or if they choose not to provide consent, but a concern for safety still exists due to threatening behaviour, the threat assessment may still proceed. Personal information shared throughout this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure the safety of all. As always, student safety is our first priority.

The Halton District School Board will respond to all threats in a professional manner in order to provide healthy and caring learning environments for all students and staff. Additionally, we will be educating students about school safety and reinforce their understanding that threat making behaviours are not acceptable.

The Halton District School Board is proud to be able to provide this level of support to our students and is most fortunate to have our community partners working with us. Should you have any questions about our community VTRA Protocol or other Safe Schools matters, please call 905.335.3665 x 3389.

Sincerely,

Scott Podrebarac
Superintendent of Education
Safe & Inclusive Schools
Halton District School Board

Jonathan Shoss
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Safe and Inclusive Schools
Halton District School Board