FROM CONCERN TO SUPPORT

Understanding how IDEA identifies, assesses, and responds to potential threats.

IDEA Public Schools

Dear IDEA Families,

When a student makes a threatening statement or displays concerning behavior, what happens next?

Not every concerning statement or behavior means someone intends to cause harm. That's why understanding the situation and identifying potential risks is an important part of keeping our schools safe.

This December, we're taking a closer look at Behavioral Threat Assessments (BTAs), how they work, and how they help keep our schools safe.



WHO CONDUCTS BTAs

The Behavioral Threat Assessment Team

Each IDEA campus has a trained Behavioral Threat Assessment Team made up of staff with different areas of expertise, including school leadership, counseling, and student support. Team members work together to evaluate potential threats and determine appropriate next steps.

Behavioral Threat Assessments: What Families Should Know

Required By Texas Law

Texas law requires school districts to have trained threat assessment teams and follow established procedures for identifying and assessing potential threats.

Parent Involvement

Parents are notified before a formal assessment of their child begins, can participate and provide information, and receive the team's findings and conclusions.

Prevention & Support

A BTA is not automatically a disciplinary action. It helps determine whether a threat is credible and what safety measures or support may be needed.

THE THREAT ASSESSSMENT PROCESS : FROM REPORT TO ACTION

1 Concern is reported

A student, family member, staff member, or community member reports a threat or concerning behavior that may impact safety.

2 Concern is reviewed

Campus leaders review the initial report to determine whether a formal Behavioral Threat Assessment is needed.

3 Assessment is conducted

After notifying the parent, the trained team gathers information, includes parent input, and evaluates potential risk.

4 Next steps are determined

Based on the findings, the team determines appropriate next steps, which may include safety measures, student support / intervention, and/or law enforcement involvement.

5 Follow up continues

When needed, the team monitors the situation, checks progress, and adjusts safety measures or support to help maintain a safe school environment.

FAMILIES PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PREVENTION!

Report threatening statements, concerning behavior, or potential threats to campus leadership or iWatchTexas, even when you're unsure how serious the concern may be.

KEEP'EM SAFE TEXAS

WINTER SAFETY REMINDER

Safe Gun Storage

As families spend more time at home over winter break, now is a good time to review safe storage practices.

The 1 - 2 - 3s of Safe Gun Storage

Gun safety isn't just knowing how to handle a gun properly; it's also about keeping it from getting into the wrong hands. Whether you keep a gun in your car, home, or somewhere else, safely storing it 24/7 is a must in order to protect our children, prevent avoidable injury, and keep our weapons out of the hands of criminals. Together, we can keep our fellow Texans safe!

Secure the Firearm

Store guns securely by using a trigger lock, biometric lock, gun case, strong box, gun cabinet, or gun safe.

Store Ammunition

Keep ammunition safely stored and secured.

Restrict Access

Keep others from getting access to stored firearms 24/7. This includes family, friends, children, or other visitors.

> ***A hidden firearm is not a safely stored firearm***

Before Winter Break

- Take a few minutes to review how firearms are currently stored.
- Check locks, safes, keys, and access codes.
- Make sure storage practices still work for your household.



SAFE GUN STORAGE DEVICE CHECKLIST

- ☐ Trigger Lock or cable lock
- ☐ Biometric lock or lock box
- ☐ Gun safe or strong box
- ☐ Safe storage plan for the home or vehicle
- ☐ Review keys, codes, and access with trusted adults only.

Learn more: SafeGunStorageTexas.com

SAFETY & SECURITY