86th Legislative Session Updates

Threat Assessment

TEC Chapter 37.115 added: Threat Assessment and Safe And Supportive School Program And Team

- “Harmful, threatening, or violent behavior” defined: includes behaviors, such as verbal threats, threats of self harm, bullying, cyberbullying, fighting, the use/possession of a weapon, sexual assault/harassment, dating violence, stalking, or assault

- “Team” defined: a threat assessment and safe and supportive school team established by the board of trustees

- TEA, in coordination with TxSSC, shall adopt rules to establish a safe and supportive school program that incorporate research-based best practices for school safety and include providing for:

  1. physical and psychological safety;

  2. a multiphase/multihazard approach to prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery in a crisis situation;

  3. a systemic/coordinated and multitiered support system that addresses school climate, the social/emotional domain, and behavioral/mental health; and

  4. multidisciplinary and multiagency collaboration to assess risks and threats in schools and provide appropriate interventions, including rules for the establishment and operation of teams.

- The board of trustees of each school district shall establish a threat assessment and safe and supportive school team to serve at each campus of the district and shall adopt policies and procedures for the teams that must:

  1. be consistent with the model policies and procedures developed by the TxSSC;

  2. require each team to complete training provided by the TxSSC or a regional education service center; and

  3. require the team to report required information regarding the team’s activities to TEA.
• The Superintendent of the district shall ensure that the members appointed to the team have expertise in: counseling, behavior management, mental health/substance use, classroom instruction, special education, school administration, school safety/security, emergency management, and law enforcement.

• A team may serve more than one campus of a district, provided that each district campus is assigned a team.

• Each team shall:

1.) conduct a threat assessment that includes assessing and reporting individuals who make threats of violence or exhibit harmful, threatening, or violent behavior;

2.) gather/analyze data to determine level of risk and appropriate intervention;

3.) provide guidance to students and school employees on recognizing harmful, threatening, or violent behavior that may pose a threat to the community, school, or individual; and

4.) support the district in implementing the district’s multihazard EOP.

**TEC Chapter 37.220 added: Model Threat Assessment Team Policies and Procedures**

• TxSSC in coordination with TEA shall develop model policies and procedures to assist school districts in establishing and training threat assessment teams.

• Model policies and procedures must include procedures, when appropriate, for:

1.) the referral of a student to a local mental health authority or health care provider for evaluation or treatment;

2.) the referral of a student for a full individual and initial evaluation for special education services; and

3.) a student or school personnel to anonymously report dangerous, violent, or unlawful activity that occurs or is threatened to occur on school property or that relates to a student or school personnel.