

WELCOME!

Please note...

- This webinar is being recorded and will be posted on PCCD's *Threat Assessment* webpage once it becomes available.
- Please check your audio settings to make sure you are able to hear today's presentation using your computer or other device.
- We cannot hear you.
- You will be able to submit questions through the Q&A feature in the Live Event.
- Questions submitted through this feature will not be visible to all participants but will be received and reviewed by PCCD staff.
- PCCD staff will allot 15-20 minutes at the end of the webinar to answer questions that have been submitted by participants through the Q&A feature.
- To the extent possible, any questions that we are not able to address in today's webinar will be answered on the Q&A section of PCCD's website.
- A copy of PowerPoint Slides from today's session will be posted on PCCD's website.



PA K-12 Threat Assessment Teams

Implementation Resources for School Entities

June 15, 2021

Today's Presenters & Facilitators



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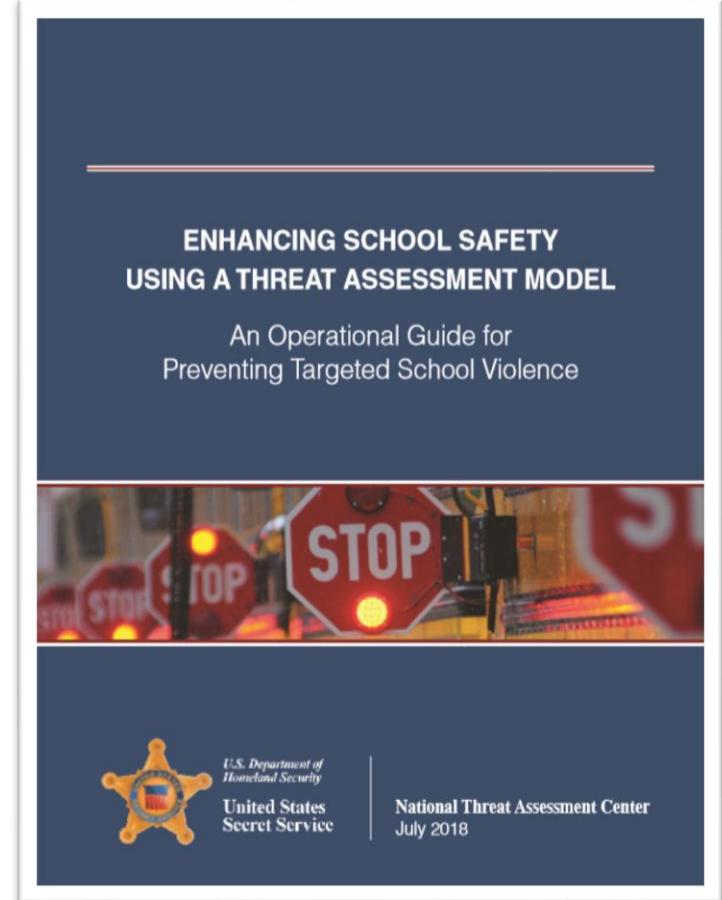
What We'll Cover Today

- 1. Housekeeping Rules**
- 2. Overview of Act 18 of 2019 / Article XIII-E (Threat Assessment)**
- 3. Implementation Resources for Pennsylvania School Entities**
 1. PA K-12 Threat Assessment TA & Training Network
 2. PSBA Model Policies & Documentation Resources
- 4. Q&A**

What is Threat Assessment?

- Multidisciplinary team of individuals who direct, manage, and document the threat assessment process
- Receive reports about concerning students and situations, gather additional information, assess risk posed to school community, and develop intervention and management strategies to mitigate risk of harm

Source: [*Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model: An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence*](#), National Threat Assessment Center, July 2018.



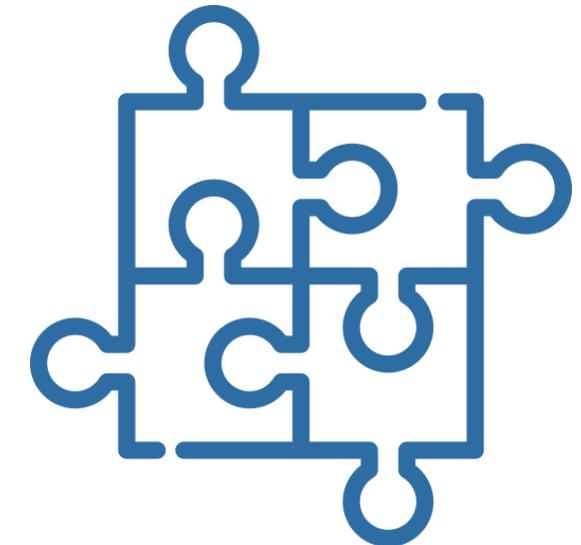
Why Threat Assessment?

- Research suggests that establishing or enhancing threat assessment capabilities as part of a comprehensive strategy can reduce the likelihood of violence and help address the mental and behavioral health needs of students.
 - The [2018 PA School Safety Task Force Report](#) also recommended implementing multidisciplinary threat assessment teams as a best practice.



One Piece of the Puzzle

- Multidisciplinary threat assessment efforts should build on and complement existing programs and frameworks focused on promoting the safety, well-being, and success of all students, including:
 - Student Assistance Program (SAP)
 - Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)
 - Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS)
 - School climate initiatives
 - Trauma-informed approaches
 - Social-emotional learning



Act 18 of 2019 – School Safety

- Governor Wolf signed [SB 144](#) (Act 18 of 2019) into law on June 28, 2019 as part of 2019-20 budget package.
- Among other school safety-related changes, the law established new requirements for K-12 school entities related to threat assessment under [Article XIII-E of the PA Public School Code](#), as well as responsibilities for the School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC) to support implementation.
- With this new law, Pennsylvania joined 10 other states in requiring the formation of threat assessment teams.
 - Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Washington

Article XIII-E, Threat Assessment

- Role/responsibility of Threat Assessment Teams under [Article XIII-E](#):
 - “...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”
- Under new law, all school entities in Pennsylvania must establish at least one Threat Assessment Team by the start of the **2021-2022 school year.**
 - “School entities” include school districts, Intermediate Units (IUs), career and technical centers (CTCs), charter schools, regional charter schools, and cyber charter schools.

Use of Existing Multidisciplinary Teams

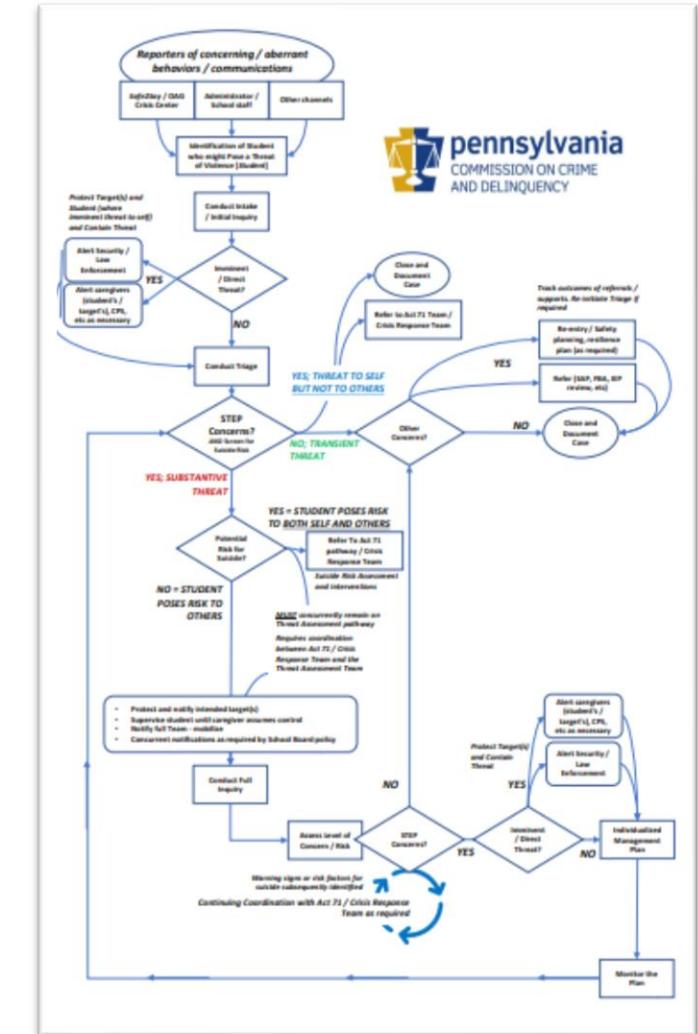
- Article XIII-E allows school entities to satisfy requirements by **assigning threat assessment responsibilities to an existing team**, including Student Assistance Program (SAP) or Safe2Say Program teams.
- A team may also serve one or more schools within the school entity.

Threat Assessment Team Requirements

- School entities can establish one or more teams **and can utilize existing teams to fulfill responsibilities.**
- Identified by the school entity's chief school administrator, in consultation with the Safety and Security Coordinator
- Each school entity must designate a Team Leader

Required Members	Optional Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individuals with expertise in:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School health;• Counseling, school psychology, or social work;• Special education; and• School administration• School Safety and Security Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other school staff or community resources who can assist with threat assessment process<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Examples: School security personnel; law enforcement agencies; behavioral health professionals; individuals receiving reports from Safe2Say Program; SAP team members; juvenile probation professionals; etc.</i>

Key Responsibilities of Teams



Key Responsibility #1: Education and Awareness

- Provide informational materials regarding recognition of threatening or at-risk behaviors to students (age appropriate) and school employees.
- Ensure school employees know who is appointed to the school entity's threat assessment team, and aware of how to report threatening or at-risk behavior
 - Note: This can include reporting through the *Safe2Say* Program.

Key Responsibility #2: Intake, Assessment, and Response

- Threat assessment team must assist in assessing and responding to reports received through the *Safe2Say* Program
- Assess/respond to reports of students exhibiting self-harm or suicide risk factors or warning signs
- Assess, respond and make appropriate determinations and referrals and related notifications to designated individuals
 - This can include coordination with the SAP, IEP team or community-based partners, as appropriate, including county agency or juvenile probation departments
- Ensure parents/guardians are notified when determinations/referrals take place

Key Responsibility #3: Communication and Information Sharing

- Teams must also provide information necessary for fulfilling annual reporting requirements to the school entity's chief school administrator or designee.
- Note: Records/documentation developed or maintained by Threat Assessment Teams as well as the report and information presented to the school entity's board of directors and submitted to the School Safety and Security Committee at PCCD are not subject to Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law.

Access to Student Information

- Article XIII-E explicitly provides Threat Assessment Teams with access to the following student information, to the extent necessary for fulfilling their duties and allowed by federal law:
 - Student health records;
 - Prior school disciplinary records;
 - Records or information shared with the school entity related to adjudication;
 - Records of any prior behavioral or mental health or psychological evaluations or screenings maintained by the school entity; and/or
 - Other records or information that may be relevant to evaluating a threat or determining treatment/referral options for a student that are maintained by the school entity.

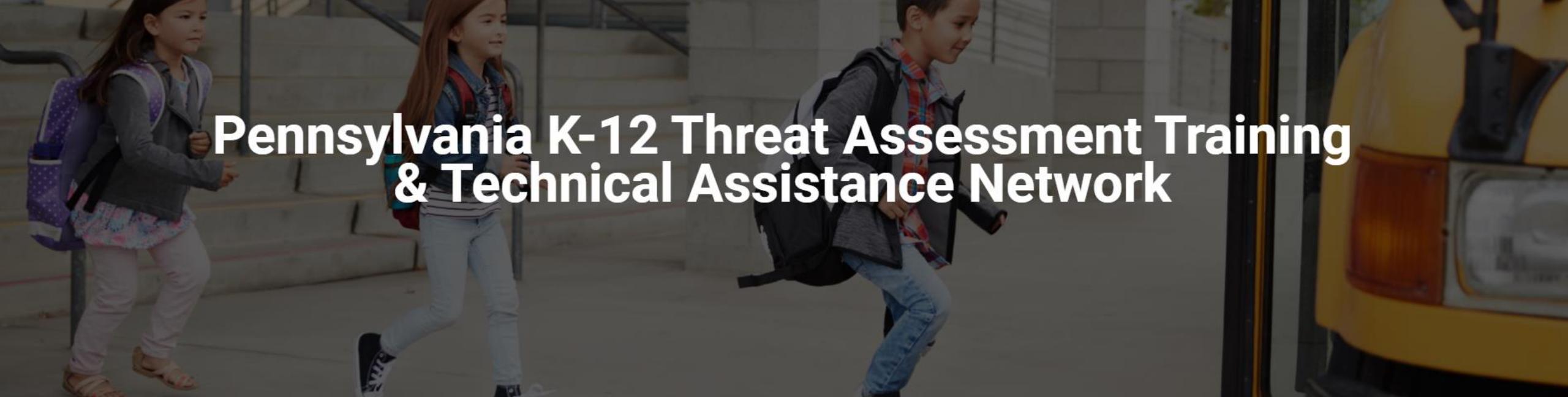
Summary: Act 18 Training Requirements

School Community

- Provide informational materials regarding recognition of threatening or at-risk behaviors to students (age appropriate) and school employees.
- Ensure school employees know who is appointed to the school entity's threat assessment team, and aware of how to report threatening or at-risk behavior
 - Note: This can include reporting through the Safe2Say Program.
- All school entities must provide employees with mandatory School Safety and Security training, which may include "identification of student behavior that may indicate a safety threat" (among other topics).

Threat Assessment Team

- All members of Threat Assessment Team must undergo specific training related to their responsibilities that addresses at least the following areas:
 - *Responsibilities of team members;*
 - *Process of identifying, reporting, assessing, responding to and intervening with threats, including identifying and avoiding racial, cultural, or disability bias; and*
 - *Confidentiality requirements under federal and state law.*
- Training must be credited toward continuing professional education or staff development requirements as well as School Safety and Security training requirements.



Pennsylvania K-12 Threat Assessment Training & Technical Assistance Network

PCCD's K-12 Threat Assessment Initiative

- To help implement these requirements, ***PCCD secured a federal grant to develop and offer comprehensive K-12 Threat Assessment Team Training and Technical Assistance to schools at no cost.***
 - This online training launched in April 2021.
 - Schools can make TA requests through the Network, accessing nationally recognized subject matter experts at no cost.
 - More information about the training, including registration, is available on [PCCD's Threat Assessment webpage](#).

The Network's Training Services

- 1-day, face-to-face sessions.
- 2 x pilot courses now being scheduled for August 2021... Save the dates:
 - 9th August in Harrisburg with PaTTAN East hosting.
 - 16th August in Archbald, with NEIU (IU 19) hosting.
- 8-10 further sessions to be scheduled across Oct-Dec 2021.
- ‘Ask the Expert’ sessions hosted by a panel of Threat Assessment subject matter experts. Dates TBC based on demand. Open forum Q&A + answers to questions received in advance.

The Network's Training Services

- Comprehensive online training program.
- Employs a trainer of trainers (T3) approach to maximize long-term sustainability.
- All online modules and hard copy presentation materials accessed from the Network's dedicated site pak12threatassessment.org.

► K-12 Threat Assessment Training | Train the Trainer Manual

► Model K-12 Threat Assessment Training Presentation

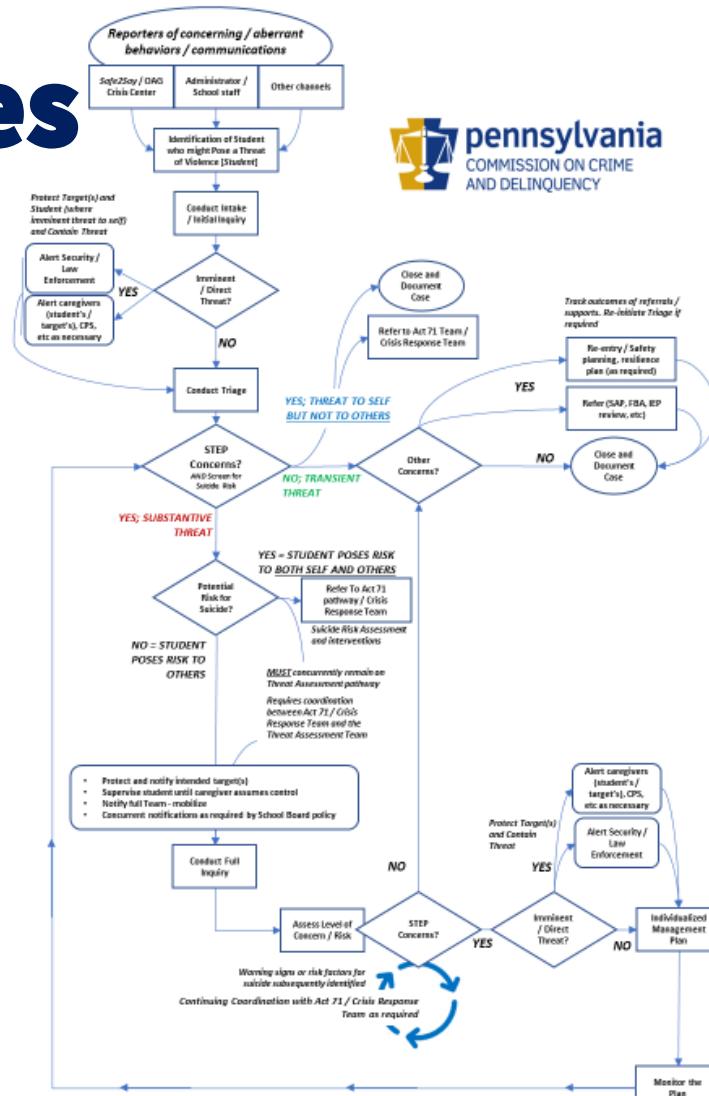
CLICK TO DOWNLOAD

CLICK TO DOWNLOAD

We have updated the training presentation, re-setting some links to external resources that were not visible and now also providing direct links to the in-module videos. For those who downloaded the presentation before close of 18th May 2021, we recommend you re-download the presentation so you have the latest version.

► Model K-12 Threat Assessment Process Flowchart

CLICK TO DOWNLOAD



The Network's Training Services

- Integrated series of videos:
 - Core modules.
 - Scene-setting.



Online Threat Assessment Training Modules

Main Modules

REMINDER: to record your completion of each module, you must click the button that will appear on the screen at the end of each video.

Module 1 – Introduction to the Online T3 Program

Module 2 – Training Scope, Conduct, Goals and the Legal and Administrative Context

Module 3 – Introduction to Threat Assessment, Threats to Others and Threats to Self

Module 4 – The Rationale for the Threat Assessment Approach

Additional in-Module Online Video Resources

If you would like to download any of the additional in-module online video resources for later offline viewing, please use the [repository link here](#). Select a video and click the "download" button, then choose your desired quality level.

Sandy Hook Promise | 'Evan'

Sandy Hook Promise | 'Say Something'

PBS After Newtown | The Path to Violence

The Network's Training Services

- Integrated series of videos:
 - Exposition.
 - Scenario-based training vignettes.



Module 5 – The Principles of Threat Assessment	The Principles of Threat Assessment Pathway to Violence
	The Principles of Threat Assessment STEP®
Module 6 – Responsibilities and Composition of Threat Assessment Teams and an Overview of the Threat Assessment Process	Conducting Threat Assessments The Process in Overview
Module 7 – Identifying and Reporting Threats	Scenario-based exercises: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Are those guns real?! Middle School – Part 1They're all on my hit list... High School – Part 1I'm really worried about him... High School – Part 1CreepyPasta drawings... Elementary – Part 1

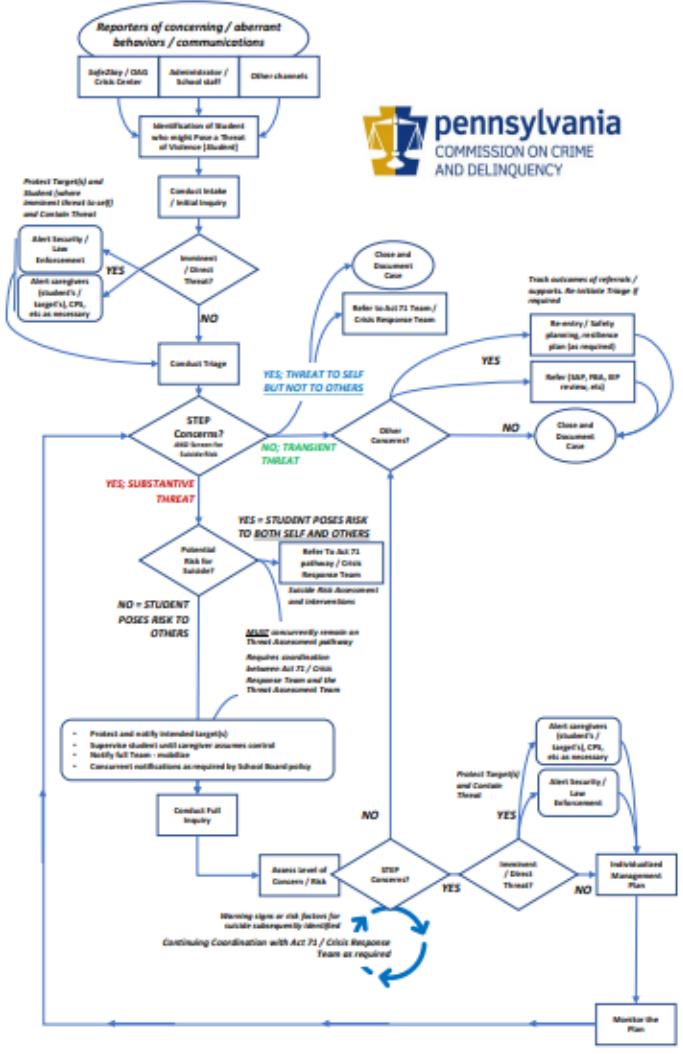
- Completion of all core modules = CPE Credit/Act 48.

The Network's Technical Assistance Services

- Online request form.
- Network Coordinator will connect requestor with TA provider.
 - Remote.
 - Face-to-face where required.
- Can assist with:
 - Advice and guidance on good practice processes, including on case management strategies applied to different individuals/situations of concern.
 - Working through realistic scenario-based examples to develop a school entity's ability and confidence in making sound assessments of the level of concern posed by different individuals and situations.
 - Generalized advice and guidance associated with ongoing cases.

The Network's Technical Assistance Services

- Cannot assist with:
 - The provision of legal advice.
 - Making decisions on a school entity's behalf.
 - Advice and guidance associated with decision-making that is time-critical and relates to a Critical/Imminent threat to life or of serious physical or psychological harm.
 - Receipt or review of sensitive, individual records or other similar information.



Navigating the Threat Assessment Process

Documentation – Policies and Administrative Regulations

- Article XIII-E directs the chief school administrator or designee to “ensure and establish procedures for the implementation of this section” – school entities may adopt board-level policies and/or administrative procedures or regulations to enact requirements
- PSBA Policy Guide – **New policy 236.1 Threat Assessment**
- PSBA Administrative Regulations –
 - **236.1-AR-0 Threat Assessment Intake Form**
 - **236.1-AR-1 Threat Assessment Checklist**
 - **236.1-AR-2 Individualized Management Plan and Re-Entry Process**

Documentation – Additional Updates

- Remember to review other existing policies, administrative regulations and documents that may be impacted by threat assessment requirements, including but not limited to:
 - Code of Student Conduct
 - Student and Staff Handbooks
 - Student Records Plan
 - District website
 - Staff training
 - Annual notifications list
 - Collective bargaining agreements (where applicable)

Documentation – Additional Updates

- Board policies and administrative regulations:

- 146.1 Trauma-Informed Approach
- 218 Student Discipline (updates coming soon)
- 218.1 Weapons
- 218.2 Terroristic Threats
- 236 Student Assistance Program - AR
- 247 Hazing
- 249 Bullying/Cyberbullying
- 252 Dating Violence
- 805 Emergency Preparedness
- Safe2Say Something Procedures
- 805.2 School Security Personnel
- 819 Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response (updates coming soon)

Additional Resources for Schools

- ***Model K-12 Threat Assessment Procedures and Guidelines***, to support school entities in developing their own policies and threat assessment teams in compliance with the expectations delineated in Act 18.
- ***Guidance on Communication and Information on Confidentiality***, in a Q&A format, to assist schools in ensuring open communication with other school-based intervention teams (particularly Student Assistance Program (SAP) and Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams) and maintaining appropriate confidentiality in accordance with state and federal law.
- ***Information for School Staff, Parents, and Guardians***, in a PowerPoint format, that school entities can adapt to include local connections and utilize as part of an interactive presentation.
- ***Students Preventing Violence in School***, in a PowerPoint format, provides information tailored to students that students can access directly, teachers can use in the classroom, or school entities can otherwise adapt and incorporate into an interactive or multimedia presentation.
- ***School Safety and Security Grant funding*** (PCCD)
- ***Office for Safe Schools Targeted Grant funding*** (PDE)



Questions?

- Please use the “Q&A” feature to submit your question(s), if you haven’t already done so.
- PCCD staff are reviewing and will answer as many questions/topics as we can over the next few minutes.

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Teams interface for a "Live event Q&A". At the top, there are three icons: a question mark (highlighted with a red box), a gear, and an info symbol. Below this is a header with the text "Live event Q&A" and a help icon. Underneath the header, there are two tabs: "Featured" and "My questions" (which is highlighted with a red box). The main area displays several user profiles with their names and a progress bar underneath each profile. To the right of the profiles are two emoji icons: one with sunglasses and one smiling. At the bottom of the screen, there is a section titled "Ask a moderator" with the sub-instruction "Questions won't be visible to everyone until a moderator approves them". This section includes a "Your name (optional)" input field, an "Ask a question" text area, and a "Post as anonymous" checkbox. A red box highlights the entire "Ask a moderator" section.

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