



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Terroristic Threats
Code	218.2
Status	Second Reading
Adopted	August 19, 1998
Last Revised	September 27, 2021
Prior Revised Dates	6/18/2018

Purpose

The Board recognizes the danger that terroristic threats and acts by students presents to the safety and welfare of district students, staff and community. The Board acknowledges the need for an immediate and effective response to a situation involving such a terroristic threat or act.

Definitions

Communicate - shall mean to convey in person or by written or electronic means, including telephone, electronic mail, Internet, facsimile, telex and similar transmissions. [1]

Terroristic threat - shall mean a threat communicated either directly or indirectly to:

1. commit any crime of violence with the intent to terrorize another;
2. to cause evacuation of a building, place of assembly or facility of public transportation;
3. to cause terror or serious public inconvenience with reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror or inconvenience. [5]

Authority

The Board prohibits any District student from communicating terroristic threats or committing terroristic acts directed at any student, employee, Board member, community member or property owned, leased, or being used by the District.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee, in coordination with the threat assessment team, shall react promptly to information and knowledge concerning a possible or actual terroristic threat. Such action shall be in compliance with state law and regulations, Board policy and any administrative regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials, and the district's emergency preparedness plan.

Guidelines

In all cases of terroristic threats, where a student's behavior indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, district staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy. [3][4]

Staff members and students shall be made aware of their responsibility for informing the threat assessment team regarding any information or knowledge relevant to a possible or actual terroristic threat. [4][7]

The threat assessment team shall immediately inform the Superintendent or designee, School Safety and Security Coordinator, and building principal of a terroristic threat, in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulations. [4]

This policy applies to on-campus and/or off-campus communications, including but not limited to, social media content or messages posted using private devices after school hours.

For purposes of this policy, the subjective intent, motivation, or purpose of a student's terroristic threat may not be relevant in determining whether the student's actions constitute a terroristic threat if such a threat causes the evacuation of a building, place of assembly, or facility of public transportation, or causes terror or serious public inconvenience with reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror or inconvenience. Should such result(s) occur, it shall not be a defense to a violation of this policy that the student was joking when he/she/they communicated the threat.

The District reserves the right to obtain repayment or restitution from the student and/or the student's parents/guardians for any direct or indirect costs to the District that resulted from the student's violation of this policy.

The Superintendent or designee may report incidents involving terroristic threats on school property, at any school-sponsored function or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored function to the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies. [2][6][8][9][10]

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident involving a terroristic threat as a victim or suspect immediately, as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether or not the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian. [6][9][11]

In accordance with state law and regulations, the Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report all incidents of terroristic threats to the Office of Safe Schools on the required form. [6][8]

If a student is expelled for making terroristic threats, the Superintendent or designee may require, prior to readmission, that the student provide competent and credible evidence from a behavioral service provider that the student does not pose a risk of harm to others. [4][15][17]

In the case of students with disabilities, including students for whom an evaluation is pending, the district shall take all steps required to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement, and Board policies. [4]

- Legal
2. 22 PA Code 12.2
 3. Pol. 233
 4. 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq
 5. 18 Pa. C.S.A. 2706

