



Pocono Mountain School District

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August 31, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Pocono Mountain School District (PMSD) is committed to ensuring all students have a safe and secure school environment in which to learn. The district has trained school-based threat assessment teams at each school and a district-level team to assess and handle any possible threats made against a school, student or staff member. The district adopted a threat assessment process last school year that follows the PA model threat assessment process.

In June 2019, Pennsylvania enacted changes to the School Code, 24 P.S. § 1301-1303-E, as outlined in Act 18 of 2019 requiring schools to establish threat assessment teams for the 2021-22 school year. PMSD formed threat assessment teams and provided training to team members on the threat assessment process back in 2019. Our teams received in-depth, in-person refresher training in October 2021 and will receive additional refresher training at the start of school. The refresher training will be completed annually to ensure all school teams are following a systematic, fact-based process consistent with the requirements under Act 18 to assess and intervene with students when threats are made against a school, against other students, or against a teacher, administrator or other school employee.

The threat assessment process the district will follow is designed to be a prevention strategy, where school communities work together to identify student threats before they become acts of violence. Our district will be utilizing the model procedures and guidelines provided on the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) website (www.pccd.pa.gov) and modifying those procedures as needed to better meet the needs of its students and schools.

It's important to note, the student assistance program (SAP) teams and referral process PMSD already has in place in all of its schools will be an integral part of this new threat assessment process. As PCCD states, "The goal of this process is to ensure the safety of the school community, and also to ensure that the student presenting the threat receives assistance through a range of strategies already established in the school."

Students, parents and community members can do their part to help keep PMSD schools safe by continuing to report possible threats or concerns about school safety to their children's principals, the police, or through Safe2Say Something.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Robison

Superintendent of Schools