

# Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance (TA) Center

TRAININGS BY REQUEST

## School Behavioral Threat Assessments: An Introduction

*An overview of school behavioral threat assessments to prevent and reduce targeted violence*

The **Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance (TA) Center**, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education (ED), Office of Safe and Healthy Students (OSHS), is pleased to offer a one-day Train-the-Educator training designed to familiarize schools and school districts with school behavioral threat assessments in preventing and reducing targeted violence at K-12 schools. Topics covered include how a threat assessment team can be integrated into the broader framework of school safety, security, emergency management and preparedness put forth in the *Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans (School Guide)*.

### TRAINING DESCRIPTION

As part of a comprehensive school emergency operations plan (school EOP), it is important for schools and school districts to understand how to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from critical incidents. This training introduces participants to various components of school behavioral threat assessments, which were originally put forth by the Safe School Initiative (SSI), alongside new information and guidance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as presented in the *School Guide*. Participants will learn about effective characteristics of threat assessments for consideration when forming their own approach and team. Specialized topics will also be addressed, such as the use of social media in threat assessments. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss concepts in small-group discussions and practice a basic threat assessment in a tabletop exercise.

### Training Objectives

The aim of this training is to help participants be able to:

- ☑ Describe key findings of the SSI.
- ☑ Understand the purpose of a school threat assessment and the role of a Threat Assessment Team (TAT).
- ☑ List effective elements of a school threat assessment.
- ☑ Identify the five stages of a school threat assessment.
- ☑ Recognize how threats can be made online and how to identify these threats.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The intended audiences for this training are:

- district and school administrators, teachers, counselors, school psychologists, support staff, and additional staff who play a role in threat assessments and/or school safety, security, emergency management and preparedness;
- community partners, such as law enforcement, including School Resource Officers, and local mental/behavioral health representatives; and
- representatives from community groups, including youth-serving organizations.

**Preparedness and Targeted Violence**

Prevent	Protect	Mitigate
Build positive climate	Set policies and rules	Educate students, teach staff, family

**Five Stages of a School Threat Assessment**

1. Initial Threat Assessment
2. Collect Information
3. Observe and Analyze Information
4. Determine Whether Student Poses a Threat
5. Manage Risk

**Case Study: Leakage**

**Prevalence of Cyber Aggression**

- Between 9% and 35% of young people are victims of cyber aggression
- Between 8% and 23% are perpetrators
- Approximately 14.8% of students have reported being electronically bullied via email, chat rooms, instant messaging, Weblogs, or texting during the previous 12 months

South Dakota Behavior Surveys, 2012, 2014