

Violent Threat Risk Assessment	
Adopted: February 19, 2013	Last Reviewed/Revised: January 16, 2024
Next Scheduled Review: 2026-2027	
Associated Policies & Procedures: II-39 Progressive Discipline and Safety In Schools VI-44 Progressive Discipline and Safety in Schools	

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the procedures and parameters as outlined in the *Halton Community Violent Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol*. Specifically, this process is a multidisciplinary approach among Halton Regional Police Services (HRPS), Halton School Boards, and numerous Halton community partners committed to making Halton schools safe for students, staff, and visitors. The focus of the procedures outlined in the Protocol document is to identify indicators that suggest that a student may be moving on a path towards violence against themselves or others. As such, intervention to decrease the risk, prevent injury, and support the student in receiving the help necessary to address the issues contributing to the high-risk behaviour(s) is implemented after consultation with professionals from various community partners, including police.

Application and Scope

This policy and the related procedures outlined in the *Halton Community VTRA Protocol* document applies to all staff in HCDSB schools who have a direct responsibility for student safety and to those students in Halton schools that demonstrate high risk behaviours that may lead to compromising the safety of other staff, students, school visitors and themselves. While most VTRAs are initiated by the school Principal/designate in consultation with the Family of Schools Superintendent and Superintendent of Safe and Accepting Schools, there can be circumstances where the School Threat Assessment Team (STAT) are invited to be a part of a VTRA that is initiated by a community partner.

References

[Education Act](#)

[Halton Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment \(VTRA\) Protocol 2013](#)

[Halton Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment \(VTRA\) Operating Guide 2016](#)

[Ontario Human Rights Code](#)

[Police-School Board Protocol Halton Region \(2021\)](#)

Definitions

Partners - refers to the signatories of the Halton VTRA Protocol Plan of Action – a chart that depicts the goals, recommendations, actions, respective persons responsible and projected date of completion and is included as part of the Intervention Plan.

Protocol - refers to the *Halton Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol 2013*

Principles

- The Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) endorses the guiding principles of human dignity rooted in Catholic Social Teachings and protected in the Ontario Human Rights Code, partnership, cooperation, consultation, and accountability in the enactment of this policy and its commitment to ensure the safety of our schools, students, staff and visitors.
- All Protocol partners will respond to all student behaviours that pose a potential risk to any students, staff or members of the community.
- Early intervention measures by the school boards and community partners will prevent violence in our schools and in the community.
- HCDSB meets all requirements for student safety as outlined in the Education Act.
- The effective continuing implementation of this Protocol will support collaborative planning to prevent traumatic events. In addition, the timely sharing of information about students at risk of violence towards themselves and/or others will ensure that risk management and safety and support plans are put into place.
- The individual's rights to privacy and the safety of all will be respected as the multi-disciplinary School Threat Assessment Team (STAT) shares and reviews student information and details of an incident.
- HCDSB is accountable to the Protocol's purpose and has shared responsibility to actively take steps to prevent traumatic events in schools. HCDSB, along with its partners, agrees to work together for the common goal of threat reduction and school and community safety by sharing information, advice, and support in a proactive way that assists in the prevention and intervention of a potential traumatic event.
- As a partner, the HCDSB is committed to work together for the benefit of children and youth by:
 - Building working relationships based upon mutual trust and respect.
 - Involving children, youth, and their families in planning for services and supports.
 - Recognizing that each student has unique strengths and needs that must be considered when developing an Intervention Plan and a Plan of Action.

- Participating in ongoing training, staff development and program review, as appropriate.
- HCDSB is transparent and open to ensure that information is shared in a timely manner.

Requirements

- School administrators are required to initiate VTRA as per the Protocol when such behaviours present themselves.
- Superintendent of Safe and Accepting Schools is responsible to ensure that all school administrators and appropriate school and Board staff are VTRA Protocol trained.
- The office of the Superintendent of Safe and Accepting Schools will maintain a copy of the VTRA Safety Plans and results of the VTRA Protocol being enacted.

APPROVED: Regular Meeting of the Board

AUTHORIZED BY: _____
Chair of the Board