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September 1, 2026

UGDSB Threat/Risk Assessment and Suicide Protocol Notification

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Upper Grand District School board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors, and community members. When safety is threatened, which places either the student or others at risk, school staff follow specific protocols for the protection of all.

It is important that you and your child(ren) are aware of these protocols as, in times of imminent risk, they will be followed and might include, a) the immediate involvement of emergency services or supports and, b) sharing of private information.

Community Violent Threat Risk Assessment Protocol (VTRA): This is a community-wide protocol that details the steps by which school staff quickly respond to threatening incidents (e.g. possession of a weapon or replica, bomb threat or plan, verbal, written, or electronic (internet) threats to injure or kill). This protocol is a trauma informed approach meant to wrap around all students in a helpful and supportive way. The protocol involves gathering the principal/vice principal, social worker, psychological consultant and/or child and youth counsellor as well as police. This may also involve community agencies signed on to the protocol such as mental health organizations. The activation of the protocol is approved through superintendents. The VTRA Protocol (P11) can be found via this link: Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol

Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Protocol: This protocol details the steps by which school staff respond to a student at risk of suicide. The protocol details steps for responding quickly, sensitively, and effectively to ensure the student's safety. The steps include having a trained staff member interview the student and taking the necessary steps to ensure safety and arrange appropriate support for the student. The Suicide Intervention and Postvention Protocol (P12) can be found via this link: Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention Protocol

Contact with parent and/or guardians: Parents and guardians play a vital role in maintaining the safety and well-being of their children. Then a student is involved in a VTRA or a suicide risk or threat, every effort is made to contact parents/guardians unless circumstances prevent us from doing so. If parents/guardians cannot be reached, or if they choose not to provide consent but a safety risk still exists, the processes outlined in the VTRA Protocol or Suicide Intervention and Postvention Protocol will still be followed.

Upper Grand District School Board

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• Laurie Whyte

As always, student safety is our first priority. If you have any questions regarding the Upper Grand District School Board's Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol or Suicide Intervention and Postvention Protocol, please contact the Superintendent of Student Achievement for your school.

Sincerely,



Peter Sovran

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