



Pocono Mountain School District

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Superintendent of Schools

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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.

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 continue to receive refresher training at the start of each school year. The refresher training is 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 follows is designed to be a prevention strategy, where school communities work together to identify student threats before they become acts of violence. Our district utilized the model procedures and guidelines provided on the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) website (www.pccd.pa.gov) and modifies those procedures as needed to better meet the needs of our students and schools.

It's important to note, the student assistance program (SAP) teams and referral process PMSD has in place in all of its schools is an integral part of its 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 the Safe2Say Something anonymous threat reporting system.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Robison

Superintendent of Schools