



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: July 19, 2023
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Principals, School Safety Specialists, School Administrators, School Social Workers, School Psychologists, School Counselors, School Faculty
From: Christopher Irving, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Field Support and Services

K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Teams Guidelines

On August 1, 2022, Governor Phil Murphy signed into law [N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.4](#), requiring the establishment of a multi-disciplinary threat assessment team in each public school, charter school, and renaissance school project. The purpose of a threat assessment team is to provide teachers, administrators, and other staff with assistance in identifying students with behaviors of concern, assessing those students' risk for engaging in violence or other harmful activities, and delivering intervention strategies to manage the risk of harm for students who pose a potential safety risk.

The law also requires the board of education of each school district and the board of trustees of each charter school or renaissance school project to develop and adopt a policy for the establishment of a multi-disciplinary threat assessment team at each school. Any policy developed by a school district, charter school or renaissance school project concerning the establishment of a multi-disciplinary threat assessment team must be aligned with the *Guidance on the Establishment and Training of K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Teams (BTAM)*, developed by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) in consultation with the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness and State law enforcement agencies.

In order to fulfill its role in the establishment and training of K-12 BTAM teams, the NJDOE Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning (OSPEP) is providing ongoing Basic Training, Advanced Training, and General Awareness sessions for BTAM teams and school communities through the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence Act grant program. More information on upcoming training sessions and additional BTAM resources and services can be found on the [OSPEP Webpage](#).

For questions, please email OSPEP at school.security@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group