Dr. Michael Merritt
Superintendent
Rockdale Elementary School District 84
715 Meadow Avenue
Rockdale, Joliet, IL 60436
Phone: 1-815-725-5321, Ext. 248
FAX: 1-815-725-3631
mmerritt@rockdale84.org

Rockdale SD 84
Threat Assessment Plan

Step 1: Establish a multidisciplinary threat assessment team of school personnel including faculty, staff, administrators, coaches, and available school resource officers who will direct, manage, and document the threat assessment process.

District Superintendent, Dr. Michael Merritt
School Principal, Mr. Jeff Peterson
Director of Buildings and Grounds, Mr. Chuck Puckett
Director of Technology, Mr. Shaun Mooney
School Social Worker, Allyson Stewart
Rockdale Classroom Teacher, Tracy Lorenc
Joliet Central Guidance Counselor, Lindsey Furczyk
Rockdale Chief of Police, Mr. Butch Dyktstra
Rockdale Police Sergeant, Mr. Rob Baikie
Rockdale Fire Chief, Mr. Dave Brady
Rockdale Fire Captain, Mr. James Amezcua

Step 2: Define behaviors, including those that are prohibited and should trigger immediate intervention (e.g., threats, violent acts, and weapons on campus) and other concerning behaviors that require a threat assessment.

The Rockdale School District Student Handbook Section: Categories of Offenses Level 3, defines student behaviors that are prohibited and should trigger immediate intervention, but are not to be construed as inclusive.

Step 3: Establish and provide training on a central reporting system such as an online form on the school website, email address, phone number, smartphone application, or other mechanisms. Ensure that it provides anonymity to those reporting concerns and is monitored by personnel who will follow-up on all reports.

Rockdale SD 84 will utilize Gaggle software to provide students a central reporting system that provides anonymity to those reporting concerns and is monitored by personnel who will follow-up on all reports.

Dr. Michael Merritt
Superintendent
Rockdale Elementary School District 84
715 Meadow Avenue
Rockdale, Joliet, IL 60436
Phone: 1-815-725-5321, Ext. 248
FAX: 1-815-725-3631
mmerritt@rockdale84.org

Rockdale SD 84
Threat Assessment Plan

Step 4: Determine the threshold for law enforcement intervention, especially if there is a safety risk.

Rockdale SD 84 school administration will be responsible for the determination for law enforcement intervention.

Step 5: Establish threat assessment procedures that include practices for maintaining documentation, identifying sources of information, reviewing records, and conducting interviews. Procedures should include the following investigative themes to guide the assessment process:

- Motive: What motivated the student to engage in the behavior of concern? What is the student trying to solve?
- Communications: Have there been concerning, unusual, threatening, or violent communications? Are there communications about thoughts of suicide, hopelessness, or information relevant to the other investigative themes?
- Inappropriate Interests: Does the student have inappropriate interests in weapons, school attacks or attackers, mass attacks, other violence? Is there a fixation on an issue or a person?
- Weapons Access: Is there access to weapons? Is there evidence of manufactured explosives or incendiary devices?
- Stressors: Have there been any recent setbacks, losses, or challenges? How is the student coping with stressors?
- Emotional and Developmental Issues: Is the student dealing with mental health issues or developmental disabilities?
- Is the student's behavior a product of those issues? What resources does the student need?
- Desperation or Despair: Has the student felt hopeless, desperate, or like they are out of options?
- Violence as an Option: Does the student think that violence is a way to solve a problem? Have they in the past?
- Concerned Others: Has the student's behavior elicited concern? Was the concern related to safety?
- Capacity: Is the student organized enough to plan and execute an attack? Does the student have the resources?
- Planning: Has the student initiated an attack plan, researched tactics, selected targets, or practiced with a weapon?
- Consistency: Are the student's statements consistent with his or her actions or what others observe? If not, why?

Dr. Michael Merritt
Superintendent
Rockdale Elementary School District 84
715 Meadow Avenue
Rockdale, Joliet, IL 60436
Phone: 1-815-725-5321, Ext. 248
FAX: 1-815-725-3631
mmerritt@rockdale84.org

Rockdale SD 84
Threat Assessment Plan

• Protective Factors: Are there positive and prosocial influences in the student's life? Does the student have a positive and trusting relationship with an adult at school? Does the student feel emotionally connected to other students?

Step 6: Develop risk management options to enact once an assessment is complete. Create individualized management plans to mitigate identified risks. Notify law enforcement immediately if the student is thinking about an attack, ensure the safety of potential targets, create a situation less prone to violence, redirect the student's motive, and reduce the effect of stressors.

Step 7: Create and promote a safe school climate built on a culture of safety, respect, trust, and emotional support. Encourage communication, intervene in conflicts and bullying, and empower students to share their concerns.

Rockdale SD 84 administration and staff will work cooperatively to build a culture of safety, respect, trust, and emotional support, along with encouraging communication, intervene in conflicts and bullying, and empower students to share their concerns.

Step 8: Provide training for all stakeholders, including school personnel, students, parents, and law enforcement.

Updated: September 7, 2022