

# Social Media Threat Guidance For Schools

## 1 Treat all threats as initially credible.

Activate your district/school Incident Command System.

## 2 Contact law enforcement to determine resources immediately needed to ensure safety/security.

- Consider community disruption/trauma when deciding how overt to make the response - especially if the threat is a hoax.
- Implement additional safety measures as needed.
- **Warning** - Be prepared for emotional responses from responding LEOs - especially if they have students attending this school.
- Depending on student access to mobile phones, be prepared for parent arrival at school to pick up their child.
- Provide timely & accurate updates to staff and families (every 10-15 minutes).



## 3 Gather as much information about the threat as possible

- Generally, the more specific the threat is regarding targets, time, location, and weapon(s) - the higher the risk. Alternatively, if the threat is general, or vague in content, it may be originating from another part of the state or country; and more likely to be a hoax.
- Collaborate with district/school Behavior Threat Assessment Team.
- Speak w/students & staff.
- Review online platforms (social media accounts).
- The two (2) main questions to answer are:
  1. Do we have an identified suspect?
  2. Does that suspect pose a threat (by having access to weapons)?
- **Warning** - Be prepared for emotional responses from your staff - especially if their students are in this school.
- Provide timely & accurate updates to staff & families (every 10-15 minutes).

## 4 Modify initial response actions based on information gathered

- Scale up intensity/overtness of actions if level of threat is elevated.
- Scale down response if level of concern drops.
- Provide timely & accurate updates to family and staff (every 10-15 minutes)

## 5 Resolve the threat

- Collaborate with law enforcement to decide when response actions (L/D or SIP) can be lifted.
- Continue collaboration with Threat Assessment Team and law enforcement if a suspect(s) is identified.
- Provide timely & accurate updates to staff & families (every 10-15 minutes).

## 6 Communicate to staff/families when emergency has been resolved

- Be prepared for parents to pick up kids - even if the incident was a hoax.
- If continuing the school day, collaborate with counselors to provide aid to those at high stress levels.
- Continue communication to staff & families as needed.
- Provide ongoing staff/student reminders about the need to **Report** threats - **Not Repost** them.

Detailed information can be found at <https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/k-12-anonymized-threat-response-guidance>