

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY, Nos. 4075 and 3229

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED JUNE 9, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

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District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

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Assemblywomen McKnight, Lopez, Assemblyman Danielsen,

Assemblywomen Jasey, Piperno, Eulner, Park, Speight, Murphy,

Assemblyman McKeon, Senators A.M.Bucco and Pou

SYNOPSIS

Requires public schools to develop threat assessment teams.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on June 23, 2022,
with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/29/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning the establishment of threat assessment teams in
2 public schools and supplementing chapter 17 of Title 18A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. a. ¹**[Each]** The board of education of each¹ school district
9 and the board of trustees of each charter school or renaissance
10 school project¹ shall develop ²and adopt² a policy for the
11 establishment of a threat assessment team at each school ¹[in the
12 district]¹. The purpose of a threat assessment team shall be to
13 provide school teachers, administrators, and other staff with
14 assistance in identifying students ²of concern, assessing those
15 students' risk for engaging in violence or other harmful activities,
16 and delivering intervention strategies to manage the risk of harm for
17 students² who pose a potential safety risk, ²[preventing] to
18 prevent² targeted violence in the ¹[district] school¹, and
19 ²[ensuring] ensure² a safe and secure school environment that
20 enhances the learning experience for all members of the school
21 community.

22 b. A threat assessment team established by a board of education
23 ¹or a board of trustees¹ under subsection a. of this section shall be
24 multidisciplinary in membership and, to the extent possible, shall
25 include the following individuals:

26 (1) a school psychologist, school counselor, school social
27 worker, or other school employee with expertise in student
28 counseling;

29 (2) a teaching staff member;

30 (3) a school principal or other senior school administrator;
31 ¹**[and]¹**

32 (4) a safe schools resource officer or school employee who
33 serves as a school liaison to law enforcement ¹; and

34 (5) the school safety specialist designated pursuant to section 2
35 of P.L.2017, c.162 (C.18A:17-43.3), in the event that the school
36 safety specialist is not already a school administrator or school
37 employee required to be a part of the threat assessment team
38 pursuant to this section¹.

39 Additional school employees may serve as regular members of
40 the threat assessment team or may be consulted during the threat
41 assessment process, as determined to be appropriate by the team.

42 c. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed as
43 affecting the provisions of any collective bargaining agreement or
44 individual contract of employment in effect on this act's effective
45 date.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly floor amendments adopted June 16, 2022.

²Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted June 23, 2022.

1 2. ¹a.¹ Any policy developed by a school district ¹, charter
2 school or renaissance school project¹ concerning the establishment
3 of a threat assessment team, required pursuant to section 1 of this
4 act, shall ¹be aligned with guidelines developed by the Department
5 of Education pursuant to section 3 of this act and shall¹ include, but
6 need not be limited to:

7 ¹[a.] (1)¹ guidance for students, teachers, and all school staff
8 regarding the recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior in a
9 student that may represent a threat to the school community;

10 ¹[b.] (2)¹ the designation of members of the school community
11 to whom threatening behavior shall be reported;

12 ¹[c.] (3)¹ the development and implementation of policies
13 concerning the assessment and intervention of students whose
14 behavior poses a threat to the safety of the school community, and
15 appropriate actions to be taken, including available social,
16 developmental, and law enforcement resources, for students whose
17 behavior is identified as posing a threat to the safety of the school
18 community;

19 ¹[d.] (4)¹ coordination and consultation with the ¹[school
20 district's]¹ school safety specialist designated pursuant to section 2
21 of P.L.2017, c.162 (C.18A:17-43.3); and

22 ¹[e.] (5)¹ a policy that the threat assessment team shall not
23 disclose or disseminate any information obtained during their
24 assessment beyond the purpose for which the information was
25 provided to the threat assessment team, except that the threat
26 assessment team is authorized to disclose the information to
27 applicable agencies to pursue appropriate action pursuant to
28 ¹[subsection c.] paragraph (3)¹ of this ¹[section] subsection¹
29 for any student whose behavior is identified as posing a threat to the
30 safety of the school community.

31 ¹b. When assessing a student whose behavior may pose a threat
32 to the safety of the school community, in the case of a student with
33 an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan, the threat
34 assessment team shall consult with the IEP team or 504 team to
35 determine whether the aberrant behavior is a threat to school safety
36 and is being properly addressed in a manner that is required by
37 N.J.A.C.6A:14 and all federal and State special education laws.

38 c. Each member of the threat assessment team shall participate
39 in training ²provided by the school safety specialist designated
40 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2017, c.162 (C.18A:17-43.3) that is²
41 consistent with the guidelines developed by the department pursuant
42 to section 3 of this act to ensure that the threat assessment team is
43 able to accurately assess student behavior and to ensure that threat
44 assessment teams do not have a disparate impact on students based
45 on their race, ethnicity, ²homelessness status,² religious belief,
46 gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.
47 The training shall, at a minimum, include training on adverse

1 childhood experiences, childhood trauma, cultural competency, and
2 implicit bias.¹

3
4 3. The Department of Education, in consultation with State law
5 enforcement agencies and the New Jersey Office of Homeland
6 Security and Preparedness, shall develop guidelines for school
7 districts ¹, charter schools, and renaissance school projects¹
8 regarding the establishment and training of threat assessment teams
9 pursuant to this act. ²The Department of Education shall provide
10 training through the New Jersey School Safety Specialist Academy
11 established pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2017, c.162 (C.18A:17-
12 43.2). The school safety specialist designated pursuant to section 2
13 of P.L.2017, c.162 (C.18A:17-43.3) shall provide training to school
14 staff consistent with the training and guidelines provided by the
15 department.²

16
17 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
18 the first full school year next following the date of enactment.