

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**ASSEMBLY, Nos. 4075 and 3229**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**220th LEGISLATURE**

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ADOPTED JUNE 9, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

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**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

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**District 29 (Essex)**

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**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. <sup>1</sup>**[Each]** The board of education of each<sup>1</sup> school district  
9 and the board of trustees of each charter school or renaissance  
10 school project<sup>1</sup> shall develop <sup>2</sup>and adopt<sup>2</sup> a policy for the  
11 establishment of a threat assessment team at each school <sup>1</sup>**[in the**  
12 **district]**<sup>1</sup>. The purpose of a threat assessment team shall be to  
13 provide school teachers, administrators, and other staff with  
14 assistance in identifying students <sup>2</sup>of 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 students<sup>2</sup> who pose a potential safety risk, <sup>2</sup>**[preventing]** to  
18 prevent<sup>2</sup> targeted violence in the <sup>1</sup>**[district]** school<sup>1</sup>, and  
19 <sup>2</sup>**[ensuring]** ensure<sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>or a board of trustees<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>**[and]**<sup>1</sup>

32 (4) a safe schools resource officer or school employee who  
33 serves as a school liaison to law enforcement <sup>1</sup>; 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 section<sup>1</sup>.

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:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly floor amendments adopted June 16, 2022.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted June 23, 2022.

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

7       <sup>1</sup>**[a.]** <sup>1</sup>(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       <sup>1</sup>**[b.]** <sup>1</sup>(2) the designation of members of the school community  
11 to whom threatening behavior shall be reported;

12       <sup>1</sup>**[c.]** <sup>1</sup>(3) 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       <sup>1</sup>**[d.]** <sup>1</sup>(4) coordination and consultation with the <sup>1</sup>**[school**  
20 **district's]**<sup>1</sup> school safety specialist designated pursuant to section 2  
21 of P.L.2017, c.162 (C.18A:17-43.3); and

22       <sup>1</sup>**[e.]** <sup>1</sup>(5) 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 <sup>1</sup>**[subsection c.]** paragraph (3)<sup>1</sup> of this <sup>1</sup>**[section]** subsection<sup>1</sup> for  
29 any student whose behavior is identified as posing a threat to the  
30 safety of the school community.

31       <sup>1</sup>b. 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 <sup>2</sup>provided by the school safety specialist designated  
40 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2017, c.162 (C.18A:17-43.3) that is<sup>2</sup>  
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, <sup>2</sup>homelessness status, <sup>2</sup>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.<sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>, charter schools, and renaissance school projects<sup>1</sup>  
8 regarding the establishment and training of threat assessment teams  
9 pursuant to this act. <sup>2</sup>The 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.<sup>2</sup>

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.