

ODYSSEY CHARTER SCHOOL INC.

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY; THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAM POLICY

A. Generally

1. The Odyssey Charter School, Inc, Board of Directors (hereafter referred as the “Board”) is committed to maintaining a safe, secure, and drug-free environment in all of its schools.
2. School crime and violence are multifaceted problems that need to be addressed in a manner that utilizes all available resources in the community through a coordinated effort of personnel, law enforcement agencies, first responders, and families. The Board further believes that school administrators and local law enforcement officials must work together to provide for the safety and welfare of students while they are at school, extracurricular activities, or at a school-sponsored event or are on their way to and from school.
3. The Board’s Designee, in conjunction with the Brevard Public School’s (BPS) Office of District and School Security and the Odyssey School Safety Specialist, shall develop a School Safety and Security Plan with input as needed from the local Fire Marshall or designee(s), local law enforcement agencies, representative(s) from emergency medical services, members of the Board, building administrators, representative(s) from the local emergency management agency, local mental health agencies, and teachers and staff.

B. Odyssey School Safety Specialist (OSSS)

1. The Board’s Designee is responsible for designating the Odyssey School Safety Specialist (OSSS). The OSSS must be a school administrator employed by the Board. The OSSS is responsible for the supervision and oversight for all school safety and security personnel, Odyssey Charter School, Inc. and School District policies and procedures, and FLDOE Board Rule 6A-1.0018 in conjunction with the Office of District and School Security and the MOU between the City/ Sheriff and the Board. All Odyssey Charter School, Inc. and School District School Safety and Security policies and procedures will be reviewed annually.
2. By August 1 of each year, the Board’s Designee will submit the School Safety Specialist’s name, phone number, and email address to the BPS Office of Safe Schools and the City/Sheriff. The Board’s Designee will notify these partners within one (1) school day whenever there is a change related to the contact information for the School Safety Specialist.

C. Threat Assessment Teams

1. The purpose of the threat assessment team is to establish a process focusing on behaviors that pose a threat to school safety while serving as a preventative measure to identify needs and provide support to students. This process is also known as a care assessment. Threat assessment teams are responsible for the coordination of resources, assessment, and intervention with individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of school staff or students consistent with the model policies and procedures developed by the Office of Safe Schools which addresses early identification, evaluation, intervention, and student support.
2. Each school-based threat assessment team must meet as often as needed to fulfill its duties of assessing and intervening with persons whose behavior may pose a threat to school staff or students, but no less than monthly. Threat assessment teams shall maintain documentation of their meetings, including meeting dates and times, team members in attendance, cases discussed, and actions taken.
3. Location and Membership
 - a. Threat assessment teams are located at each school and are composed of individuals with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration, and law enforcement.
 - b. The counseling team member must be a school-based mental health services provider who is able to access student mental health records.
 - c. The law enforcement team member must be a sworn law enforcement officer, as defined by F.S. 943.10, including a School Resource Officer, school-safety officer, or other active law enforcement officer. At a minimum, a law enforcement officer serving on a threat assessment team must have access to local Records Management System information, the Criminal Justice Information System, and the Florida Crime Information Center and National Crime Information Center databases. Officers serving on school-based threat assessment teams must also have clearance to review Criminal Justice Information and Criminal History Record Information.
 - d. The Board authorizes the OSSS to create procedures for the purpose of:
 - i. identifying team participants by position and role;
 - ii. designating the individuals (by position) who are responsible for gathering and investigating information; and identifying the steps and procedures to be followed from initiation to conclusion of the threat assessment inquiry or investigation.

4. Responsibilities and Activities of Threat Assessment Teams

- a. The responsibilities and activities of Threat Assessment Teams include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - i. identification of individuals in the school community to whom threatening behavior should be reported and provide guidance to students, faculty, and staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self;
 - ii. utilizing the Department of Safe Schools behavior threat assessment instrument developed pursuant to F.S. 1001.212;
 - iii. consulting with law enforcement when a student exhibits a pattern of behavior, based upon previous acts or the severity of an act, that would pose a threat to school safety;
 - iv. consulting with law enforcement when a student commits more than one (1) misdemeanor to determine if the act should be reported to law enforcement;
 - v. if a preliminary determination is made by either the Threat Assessment Team or through the suicide risk inquiry, that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to himself/herself or others, the determination will be reported to the OSSS who will then notify the management company and the Board. An attempt will be made, which shall contact the other agencies involved with the student and any known service providers to share information and coordinate any necessary follow-up actions.
 - vi. Upon the student's transfer to a different school, the Threat Assessment Team shall verify that the intervention services provided to the student remain in place until the Threat Assessment Team of the receiving school has the opportunity to review and assume the recommendations of the initiating team/school.
 - vii. Preliminary determination is made by the Threat Assessment Team or through the suicide risk inquiry that a student poses a threat of violence to himself/herself or others or exhibits significantly disruptive behavior or need for assistance, authorized members of the Threat Assessment Team may obtain the student's criminal history record information as provided in F.S. 985.047.
- b. Members of the Threat Assessment Team may not disclose any criminal history record information obtained pursuant to this paragraph or otherwise use any record of an individual beyond the purpose for which such disclosure was made to the Threat Assessment Team.

- c. Members of the Threat Assessment Team shall create procedures related to engaging crisis supports and/or resources.

5. Sharing Information

- a. The Odyssey schools, partnering agencies, BPS, and individuals that provide services to students experiencing, or at risk of, an emotional disturbance or a mental illness and any service or support provider contracting with such agencies may share with each other records or information that are confidential or exempt from disclosure under F.S. Chapter 119 if the records or information are reasonably necessary to ensure access to appropriate services for the student or to ensure the safety of the student or others.

6. Immediate Mental Health or Substance Abuse Crisis

- a. If an immediate mental health or substance abuse crisis is suspected, school personnel shall follow policies established by the Threat Assessment Team to engage crisis supports and/or resources. Crisis resources, including, but not limited to, mobile crisis teams and school resource officers trained in crisis intervention shall provide emergency intervention and assessment, make recommendations, and refer the student for appropriate services.
- b. Onsite school personnel shall report all such situations and actions taken to the Threat Assessment Team, which shall contact the other agencies involved with the student and any known service providers to share information and coordinate any necessary follow-up actions.
- c. Upon the student's transfer to a different school, the Threat Assessment Team shall verify that the intervention services provided to the student remain in place until the Threat Assessment Team of the receiving school has the opportunity to review and assume the recommendations of the initiating team/school.

7. All Threat Assessment Team members must be trained on the Department's behavior threat assessment instrument in accordance with Florida law.

8. Quantitative data from each Threat Assessment Team shall be accurately and timely reported to the Office of Safe Schools.