



# SENATE BILL 11

Following the 86th Legislative Session, Gov. Abbott signed SB 11 into law in June 2019. SB 11 went into effect immediately, and it creates threat assessment teams in school districts across Texas. This law was passed with the tragedies of Parkland, FL and Santa Fe, TX in mind. Under the law, each district must establish a threat assessment and safe & supportive school team.

## **WHAT IS THE TEAM'S RESPONSIBILITY?**

The team must develop the safe and supportive school program for the district, and they must be trained by the Texas School Safety Center, based in San Marcos, or a regional education service center.

## **WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF THIS TEAM?**

They are people from across the district who must have expertise in counseling, behavior management, special education, mental health & substance abuse, classroom instruction, school administration, school safety and security, emergency management and law enforcement.

## **WHAT WILL THEY DO?**

The team has to conduct assessments that report individuals who make threats of violence or exhibit harmful behavior. In executing this task, the team should gather data to determine the level of risk of the student and the appropriate intervention. The team should also create an escalation procedure and refer a student for a mental health assessment, when appropriate.

## **SHOULD THE TEAM REACH OUT TO ME AS THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN?**

Yes, if your student is under 18, the team should contact you and get your written consent before the threat assessment is conducted.

## **HOW WILL THE THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAM IMPACT MY STUDENT IF THEY'RE SIMPLY CAUGHT WITH ALCOHOL OR DRUGS?**

If a student uses or possesses drugs or alcohol on campus, the threat assessment team shouldn't necessarily step in. Instead, the district should apply its existing procedures related to substance use prevention.

## **IS THE TEAM REQUIRED TO KEEP DATA ON THE THREAT ASSESSMENTS IT CONDUCTS?**

Yes, the team must keep the total number of assessments they make, and they must break them down by the race of the student, their gender, their special education status, whether they are in foster care, and whether they are homeless.

*Texas Education Code Section 37.115*

## ADVOCATE FOR STUDENTS OF COLOR & STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN TEXAS

As threat assessment teams begin their work in districts across the state, we urge parents and community advocates to track the data in your independent school district to ensure that Black and Latinx students and students with disabilities are not disproportionately represented in the threat assessments that are conducted.



For more information, contact:

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