

## WILKES-BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICE DEPARTMENT

730 S. Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18711-0375

### THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAM

In June of 2019, Pennsylvania passes a law that requires schools in the commonwealth to establish threat assessment teams. The Wilkes-Barre Area School District has established such teams, both at the building and administrative levels. Members include building principals, guidance counselors, school nurses and school police officers; as well as District level administrators and other personnel when warranted.

The goal of these teams is to keep everyone safe and work with the student making the threat before they act. Threats can be made by someone who wants to:

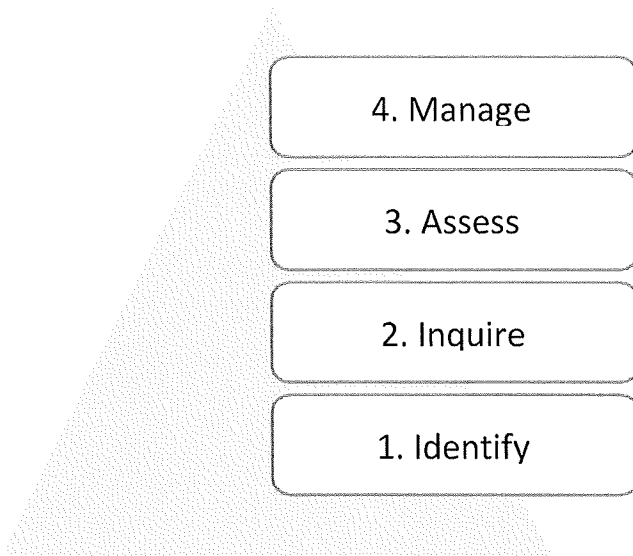
- Harm themselves
- Harm other students
- Harm school staff members
- Harm the school building
- Bring harm to the community

### THREAT ASSESSMENT

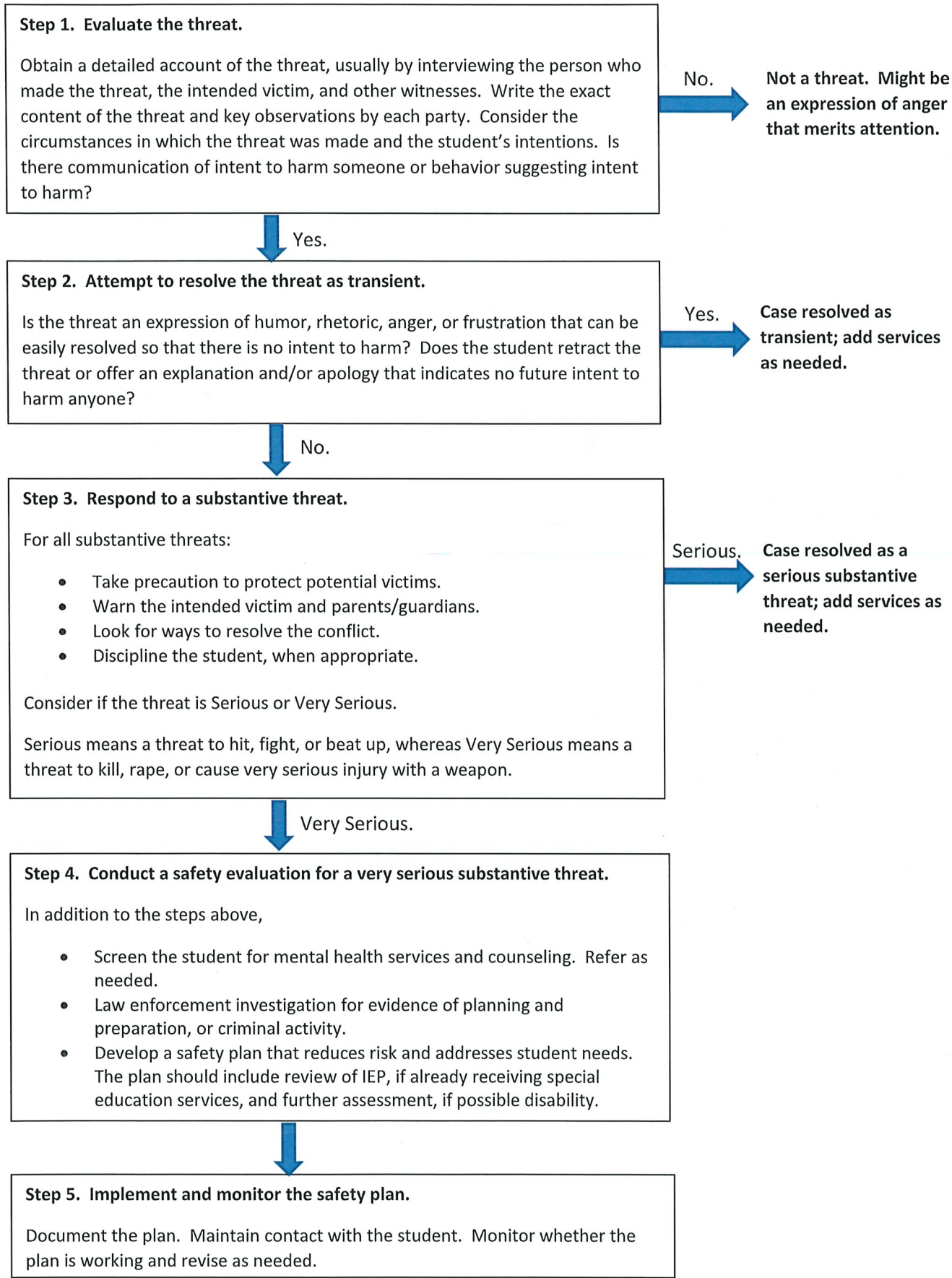
- A fact-based, investigative approach to determining how likely a person is to carry out a threat of violence;
- A means to identify, assess, and manage individuals who are at risk for violence against themselves or others; and
- A way to identify someone who has the potential for violence in many forms-self harm, assault, risk-taking behaviors, suicide, substance abuse, and other aggressive or dangerous behaviors.

Threat Assessment is focused on a given individual or individuals as potential threat, and conducted as the need arises. Information regarding threats may be provided from a variety of sources, including the Safe 2 Say system.

## Threat Assessment Process



1. **Identify** the person or situation whose behavior has raised some concern about potential violence.
2. **Inquire/Ask Questions** and gather additional relevant information about the person and situation.
3. **Assess** the person and situation based on the totality of information that is reasonably available to determine whether the person or situation poses a threat of violence or harm to others and/or self.
4. **Manage** the threat by implementing an intervention, supervision, and/or monitoring plan to prevent harm where possible and to reduce/mitigate impact of the situation.



Adapted from Dewey G. Cornell, *Overview of the Virginia Student Threat Assessment Guidelines (VSTAG)*, University of Virginia, June 18, 2018.