The Colorado School Safety Resource Center offers this document only as a companion to a full threat assessment training. This document in no way replaces a fully trained team and a training for other school staff in threat assessment and making referrals

Making vs. Posing a Threat

- Some students who make threats ultimately pose a threat
- Many students who make threats do not pose a threat
- Some students who pose a threat never make threats
  Implication: ALL threats must be taken seriously; threats are NOT a necessary condition to initiate an inquiry or preliminary evaluation.

Current life information

- Quality of relationships and support
- Recent losses or losses of status
- Current grievances or grudges
- Perceptions of being treated unfairly
- Difficulty coping
- "Downward" progression in functioning
- Hopelessness, desperation, and/or despair
- Pending crises or change in circumstances

Motives

- Desire for revenge
- Yearning for attention
- Wish to solve a problem
- Desire to die/be killed (increased recklessness)
- History of perceived grievances

(Be aware of changes in and clusters of these behaviors)

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Attack Related Behaviors

- Plans about injuring self or others
- Communications suggesting unusual interest in school attacks
- Comments expressing the student is considering an attack
- Recent weapon-seeking behavior (and/or other tactical paraphernalia)
- Communications suggesting the student condones or is considering violence (dehumanization & desensitization)
- Rehearsals of attacks (skill set building)
- Inappropriate or dramatic change in appearance (e.g. hair, tattoos)
- Abrupt cessation in the use of alcohol, drugs, and/or medications ("cleansing/purifying")
- Creation of a "legacy token" to claim credit and/or to articulate motives
- Boundary probing of security measures
- Pre-attack staging or "cocooning" to prepare for the attack

Other concerns to report to your Threat Assessment & Management Team

- Direct or indirect threats to harm person, group, property and/or entire school
- Artistic, written, or symbolic expression with disturbing and/or violent content
- Report of a weapon on campus
- Imminent concerning behaviors or a cluster of concerning behaviors
- Threat to harm or kill self (along with threats to others, or additional factors)
- Escalating pattern of behavior that has been resistive to intervention at school
  (There may be other reasons not mentioned here)