



Behavioral Threat Assessment Policy 2130

Proposed Revisions

School Board Workshop 1

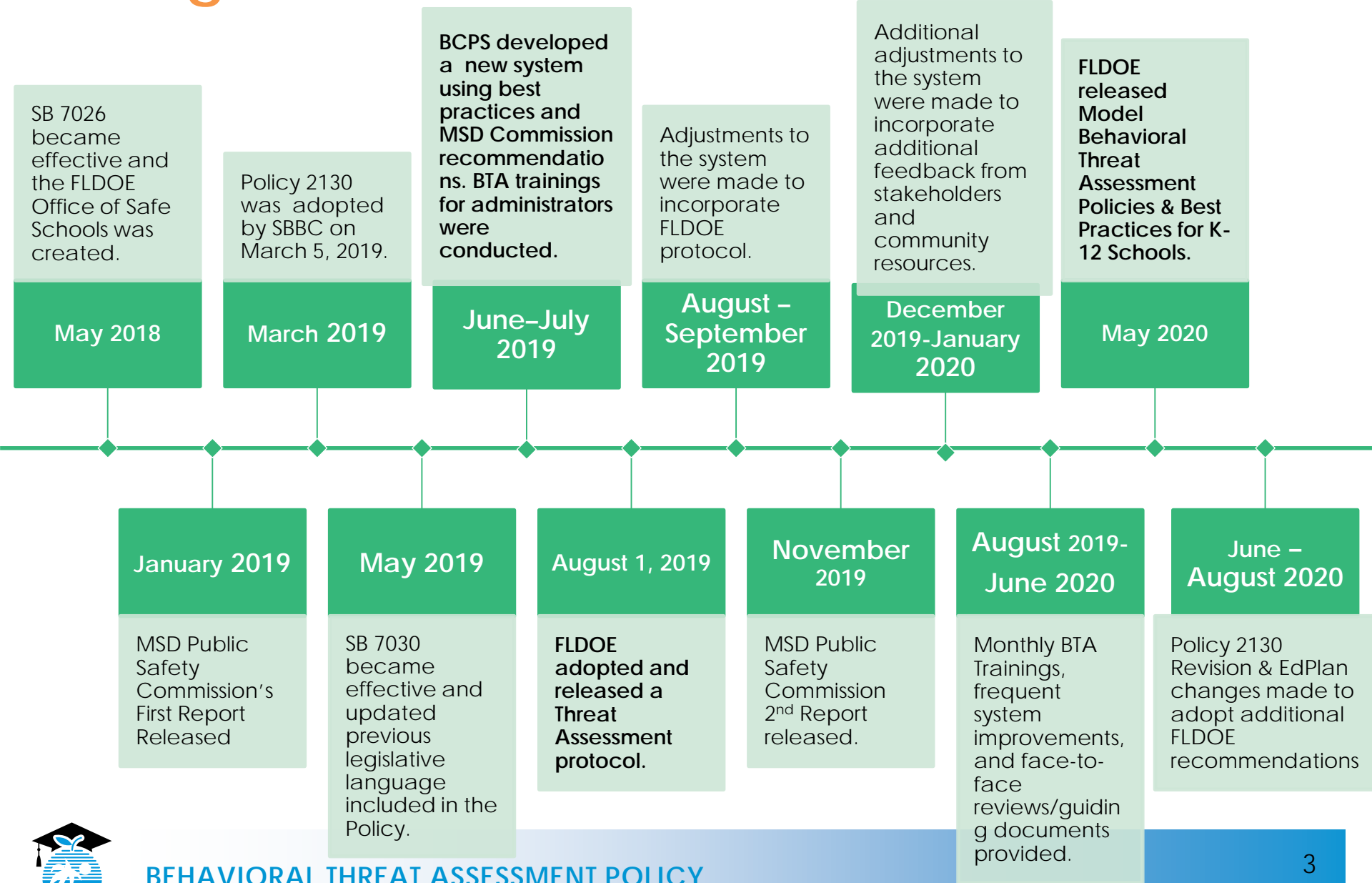
Purpose of Behavioral Threat Assessment (BTA) Policy 2130

Pursuant to the Marjory Douglas High School Public Safety Act (SB 7026):

Each district school board shall adopt policies for the establishment of threat assessment teams at each school whose duties include the coordination of resources and assessment and intervention with individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of school staff or students consistent with the model policies developed by the Office of Safe Schools. Such policies shall include procedures for referrals to mental health services identified by the school district pursuant to s. 1012.584(4), when appropriate.



Background Information: Timeline of Events



Need for Revision

As a result of legislative updates and the release of FLDOE Office of Safe Schools recommendations that followed, a revision of the policy is needed to incorporate these changes.



Policy Revision Development

Behavioral Threat Assessment (BTA) Policy Revision Meetings were held on **June 4, 2020** and **July 20, 2020** with a variety of stakeholders invited to participate including staff from:

- Office of the General Counsel
- Office of School Performance and Accountability (OSPA)
- Office of Academics (OoA)
- Office of Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness
- Chief of Staff
- Student Support Initiatives (SSI)
- Special Investigative Unit (SIU)



Highlights of Proposed Changes

Office of Safe Schools Model Policies & Procedures (May 2020)

recommendations adopted:

- New Definitions for substantive, transient, and unfounded/no threats.
- Refined the policy's purpose to match FLDOE language regarding discipline.
- Proposed adoption of FLDOE's triage process due to analysis of District BTA data and the need to better utilize staff resources.
- Adopted modifications to language for greater clarity.

Legislative Updates adopted:

- Removed language stricken from SB 7026 (formerly Section III, Letter P).
- Added language to adopt revisions in SB 7030 regarding the transfer of records.

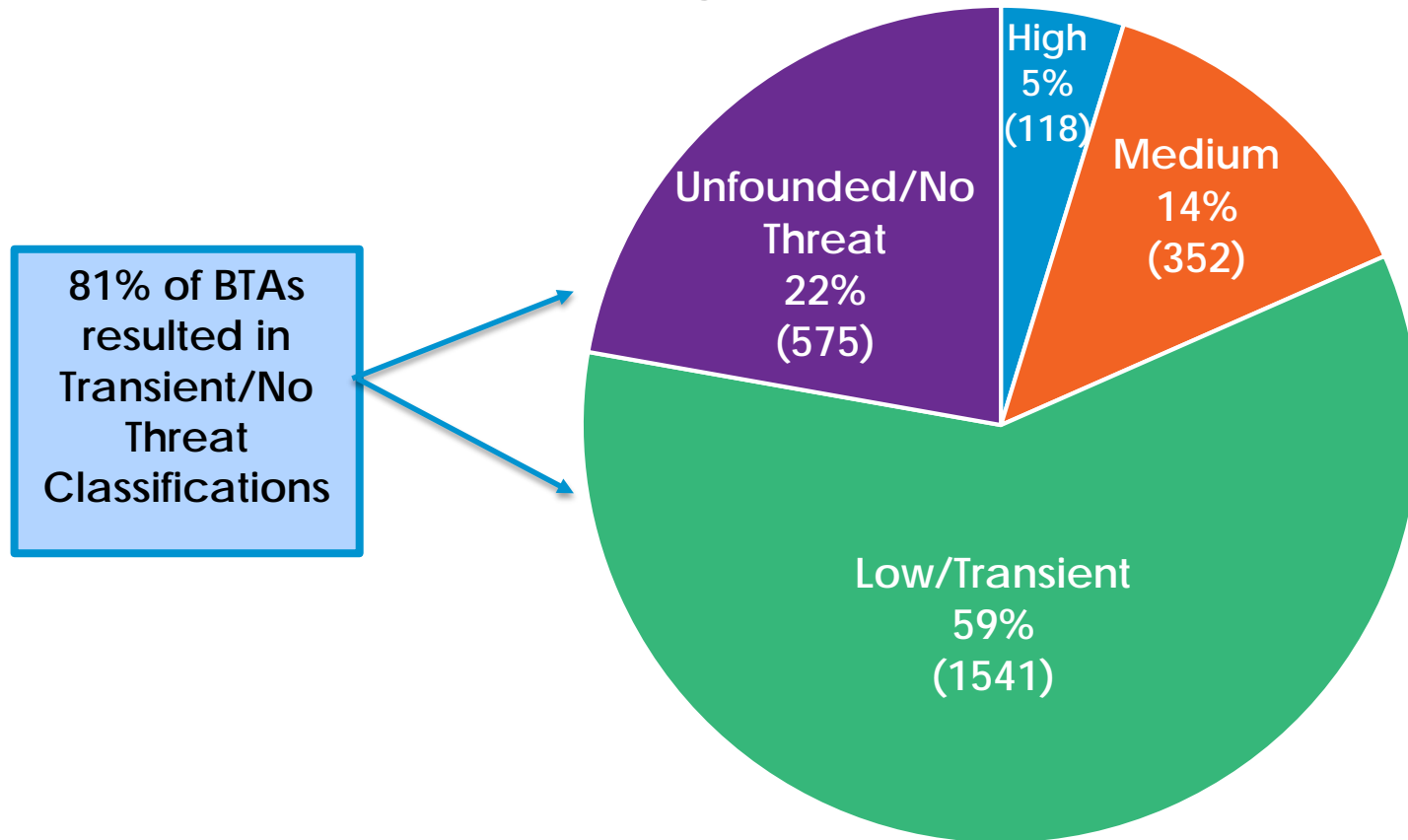
Reorganized presentation of the policy for greater clarity:

- Section III previously known as "Roles and Responsibilities" was reorganized into three separate sections to provide greater clarity.



2019-2020 BTA DATA REVIEW

BTA Risk Level Determinations by Classification
August 2019-June 2020



Total Number of BTA's conducted: 2,586



FLDOE Office of Safe Schools Triage Process

- Some districts may choose to implement a triage process.
 - Two members of the team should review the initial reported threats to determine if the issue can be easily resolved, or whether the full team should further assess and manage the situation.
 - All members of the team should have an opportunity to review triaged cases to ensure they have been addressed.
- **POLICY CHANGE:** Section IV, Letter A includes proposed language to adopt this change.

Source: Model Behavioral Threat Assessment Policies and Best Practices for K-12 Schools, Office of Safe Schools, May 2020



Summary of Updated Definitions

- A **transient threat** means there is no sustained intent to harm and a **substantive threat** means the intent is present (or not clear) and therefore requires protective action.
- An **unfounded/no threat** decision exists when, following a detailed account of the threat obtained by interviewing the person who made the threat, the intended victim, and other witnesses, a threat could not be corroborated or substantiated.
- **Policy Change:** Section I, Letters E-G: adds language to adopt these definitions.

Source: Model Behavioral Threat Assessment Policies and Best Practices for K-12 Schools, Office of Safe Schools, May 2020



Guidance on Discipline

FLDOE

- **Threat assessment is not a disciplinary process.**
- Not all types of misbehavior that may warrant discipline or even criminal consequences are threats.

Secret Service 2018

- Teams and school administrators should consider how it might affect their ability to monitor the student.
- **Removing a student from school does not eliminate the risk to the school community.**
- Teams should stay connected to the suspended or expelled student to determine whether the student's situation is deteriorating or the behaviors of concern are escalating so that they can respond appropriately.

Secret Service 2019

- Seventeen attacks (41%) took place within the first week back to school following a break in attendance, such as a suspension, school holiday, or an absence due to illness or truancy.
- **Findings suggest that schools should make concerted efforts to facilitate positive student engagement following discipline, including suspensions and expulsions, and especially within the first week that the student returns to school.**

- **POLICY CHANGE:** Section II, Letter A: Adopts similar language into Policy 2130 to clarify the purpose of a BTA
- NOTE: Information learned in a threat assessment may be used in disciplinary proceedings, where appropriate.



SB 7030 Update

- This passing of SB 7030 removed the following requirement from statute: *If a student commits more than one misdemeanor, that is known to the school, the threat assessment team must consult with law enforcement to determine if further action is warranted.*
 - **POLICY CHANGE:** *This language was also stricken from our policy (page 5).*
- The passing of SB 7030 also added new requirements regarding the transfer of records.
 - **POLICY CHANGE:** **Guidance for transferring records within the district and out of the district adopted in policy revision, Section V, Letter E, (a) & (b)**



Next Steps

- **BTA Trainings are being offered throughout the 2020-2021 school year:**
 - **BTA Procedures for Administrators & School-Based Team Members**
 - **BTA Procedures for Mental Health Professionals**
 - **BTA Updates & Review Canvas Course:** is being developed for BTA Team Members who have already taken the Procedures course in order to provide them with annual review and updates (to include the revisions to this policy and to the EdPlan system.) (*Anticipated: Fall 2020*)
 - **Warning Signs Canvas Course:** is being modified from a face-to-face training to increase the ease of distribution and accommodate to virtual learning platform. (*Anticipated: Fall 2020*)
- **EdPlan Modifications forthcoming, pending Board approval of the policy revisions.**



Resources and Research

The following best practices and recommendations were utilized to develop this policy:

- Cornell, Dewey, Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines in 2018
- *Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model: An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence*, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, United States Secret Service, National Threat Assessment Center (July 2018)
- Final Report of the Federal Commission on School Safety (December 18, 2018)
- Florida Department of Education, Office of Safe Schools, www.fldoe.org/safe-schools/
- *K-12 Threat Assessment in Virginia: A Prevention Overview for School Staff, Parents, and Community Members*, Department of Criminal Justice Services, Virginia, www.dcjs.virginia.gov
- *Let's Talk Safety Conference*, NSU University School, Nova Southeastern University, U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (October 18, 2018)



Resources and Research (cont.)

- *Making Prevention a Reality: Identifying, Assessing, and Managing the Threat of Targeted Attacks*, Behavioral Analysis Unit - National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime, U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (February, 2017)
- *Making Schools Safer*: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, United Secret Service (February 2018)
- Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act: SB 7026 (March 2018)
- **NEW**: Implementation of Legislative Recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission: SB 7030 (May 2019)
- Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission Report (January 2, 2019)
- **NEW**: Model Behavioral Threat Assessment Policies and Best Practices for K-12 Schools, FLDOE, Office of Safe Schools (May 2020)
- **NEW**: Protecting America's Schools/Analysis of Targeted Violence, USSS, National Threat Assessment Center (November 2019)
- *Threat Assessment in Virginia Public Schools: Model Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines, Second Edition*, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (August 2016)



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