

Educator Guidelines for Handling Student Risk Notifications

Purpose:

This handout provides educators with clear guidance on how to handle student risk notifications under **California Education Code 49079** while maintaining student confidentiality and school safety.

1. Understanding Education Code 49079

- Schools must notify a student's teacher(s) if the student has a history of violent behavior or has committed certain crimes.
- Notifications help teachers prepare for student interactions and classroom safety.
- Information must remain confidential and cannot be shared beyond those with a legitimate educational interest.

 **Key Legal References:** FERPA (Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act), School Safety Policies.

2. Crimes & Behaviors That Require Notification

Teachers must be informed if a student has engaged in:

- ✓ **Violent Acts** (Assault, Battery, Homicide, Attempted Homicide)
- ✓ **Weapons Possession** (Firearms, Knives, Explosives)
- ✓ **Threats & Intimidation** (Criminal Threats, Violence Toward Staff or Students)
- ✓ **Sexual Offenses** (Sexual Battery, Lewd Acts with a Minor)
- ✓ **Drug-Related Offenses** (Selling/Distributing Controlled Substances on Campus)
- ✓ **Gang-Related Activity** (Organized Violence, School Threats)

 **Reference:** California Penal Codes 240, 242, 245, 422, 243.4, 626.9, 11357.

3. Educator Responsibilities Upon Receiving Notification

- ◆ **Review the Notification:** Read the information provided by administration carefully.
- ◆ **Maintain Confidentiality:** Do not discuss the student's history with other students, staff, or parents unless authorized.
- ◆ **Use Information for Classroom Safety:** Adapt classroom management strategies as needed.
- ◆ **Seek Additional Support:** Consult school counselors, administrators, or resource officers for

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behavioral guidance.

◆ **Document Concerns:** Keep records of any behavioral incidents that may require intervention.

 **Reminder:** Teachers are not responsible for disciplinary action but should ensure safety and engagement for all students.

4. How to Address Classroom Safety Concerns

✓ **Engage with School Support Staff:** Work with counselors and administrators to develop intervention strategies.

✓ **Implement Classroom Modifications:** Adjust seating, increase supervision, and use de-escalation techniques.

✓ **Report Any New Incidents Promptly:** If the student engages in new threatening or violent behavior, follow school reporting protocols immediately.

✓ **Know Your Rights & Responsibilities:** If you feel unsafe or require additional support, communicate with your principal or the behavioral threat assessment team.

 **Reference:** School Safety Plan & Behavioral Threat Assessment Team (BTAT) Procedures.

5. When to Seek Additional Intervention

If the student exhibits ongoing aggressive behavior, refuses support, or escalates threats, notify the administration and request a risk assessment.

✓ **Who to Contact:**

- **School Principal or Administrator** – For immediate guidance and intervention planning.
- **School Resource Officer (SRO)/Security** – If safety concerns escalate.
- **Counselors & Mental Health Professionals** – For behavioral intervention plans.
- **Behavioral Threat Assessment Team (BTAT)** – For long-term monitoring and case review.

 **Checklist: Handling Student Risk Notifications**

- Reviewed notification & maintained confidentiality.
- Adjusted classroom strategies for student support & safety.
- Contacted support staff for additional intervention if necessary.

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- Reported new concerns following school safety protocols.
 - Documented all relevant incidents & interventions.
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Final Takeaways:

- Notifications help ensure teacher preparedness and student safety.**
- Confidentiality is critical—do not share information beyond authorized personnel.**
- Teachers play a role in student support, but disciplinary actions remain with administration.**
- Use available school resources and report concerns promptly.**

 **For Further Questions:** Contact your school administrator or threat assessment team for guidance.