

Warning Signs of Potential Violence

- Has engaged in violent behavior in the past.
- Has tantrums and uncontrollable angry outbursts abnormal for someone that age.
- Continues exhibiting anti-social behaviors that began at an early age.
- Forms and/or maintains friendships with others who have repeatedly engaged in problem behaviors.
- Often engages in name calling, cursing, or abusive language.
- Has brought a weapon or has threatened to bring a weapon to school.
- Consistently makes violent threats when angry.
- Has a substance abuse problem.
- Is frequently truant or has been suspended from school on multiple occasions.
- Seems preoccupied with weapons or violence, especially those associated more with killing humans than with target practice or hunting.
- Has few or no close friends despite having lived in the area for some time.
- Has a sudden decrease in academic performance and/or interest in school activities.
- Is abusive to animals.
- Has too little parental supervision given the student's age and level of maturity.
- Has been a victim of abuse or been neglected by parents/guardians.
- Has repeatedly witnessed domestic abuse or other forms of violence.
- Has experienced trauma or loss in the home or community.
- Pays no attention to the feelings or rights of others.

- Intimidates others.
- Has been a victim of intimidation by others.
- Dwells on perceived slights, rejection, or mistreatment by others; blames others for his/her problems and appears vengeful.
- Seems preoccupied with TV shows, movies, video games, reading materials, or music that expresses violence.
- Reflects excessive anger in writing projects.
- Is involved in a gang or anti-social group.
- Seems depressed/withdrawn or has exhibited severe mood or behavioral swings, which appear greater in magnitude, duration, or frequency than those typically experienced by students that age.
- Expresses sadistic, violent, prejudicial, or intolerant attitudes.
- Has threatened or actually attempted suicide or acts of unfashionable self-mutilation.
- Written or verbal evidence that indicates a fixation on a perceived injustice, a revenge fantasy, an obsession with revenge, a desire to be notorious, a preoccupation with previous school shooters or shootings, suicidal or homicidal ideation, feelings of insignificance, dehumanization, and insensitivity to violence.

Source: International Association of Chiefs of Police (nd). *Guide for Preventing and Responding to School Violence, 2nd ed.* Washington, DC: International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Bureau of Justice Assistance.