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ADMINISTRATORS  
CONFERENCE

# Behavioral Threat Assessment

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# Department of Justice: Stop Violence Grant

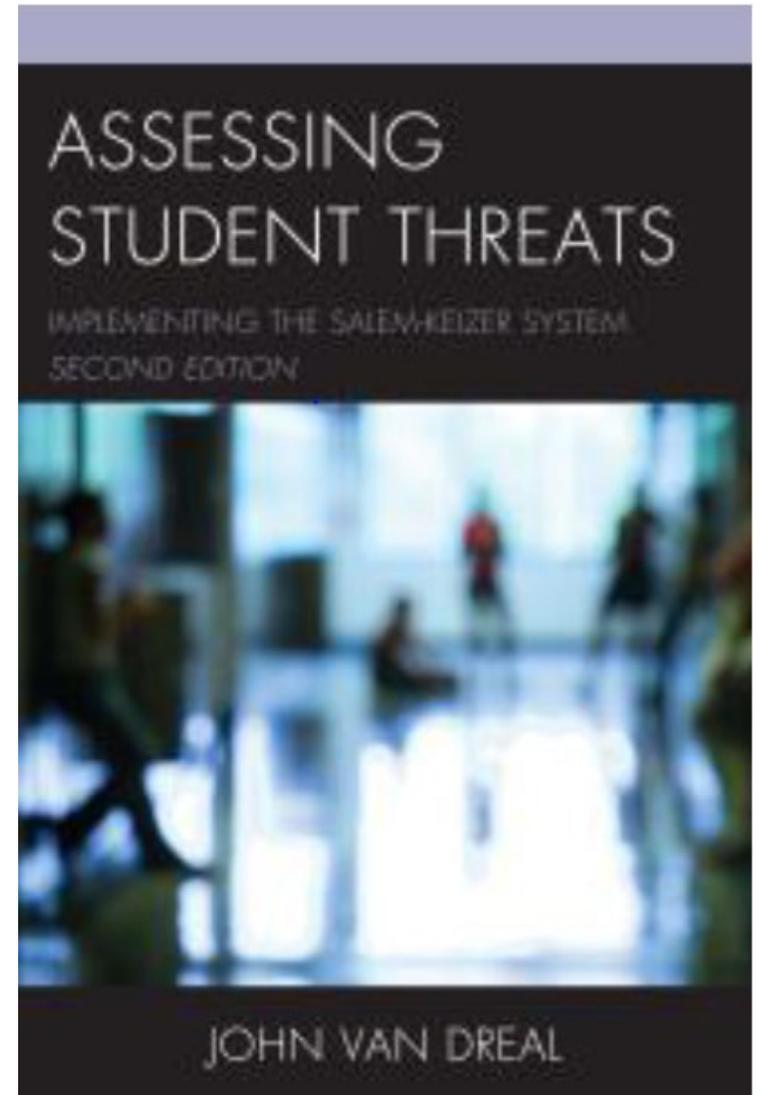
**Oklahoma Public Schools  
Behavioral Threat  
Assessment and  
Management System**



**OKLAHOMA**  
STATE DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

# Development

- Oklahoma State Department of Education
- UCO Department of Criminal Justice
- Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security
- Salem-Keizer System, in association with John Van Dreal



# Safety-

Condition of being safe from undergoing or causing hurt, injury, or loss. *Merriam Webster*



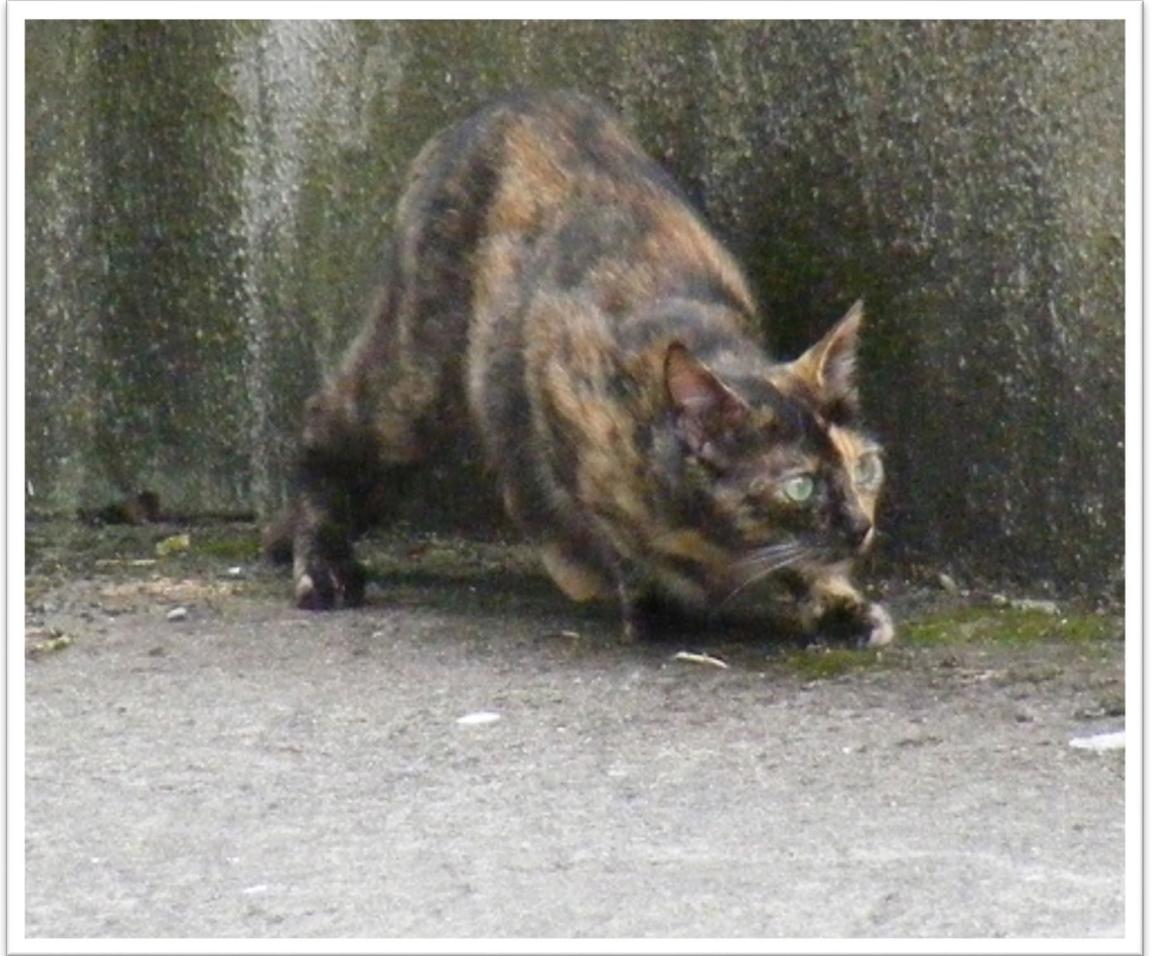
# Security-

The quality or state of being secure such as, freedom from danger, or freedom from fear or anxiety. *Merriam Webster*



- Security is **mostly a superstition**. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. The fearful are caught as often as the bold.

# Behavior



# Threats

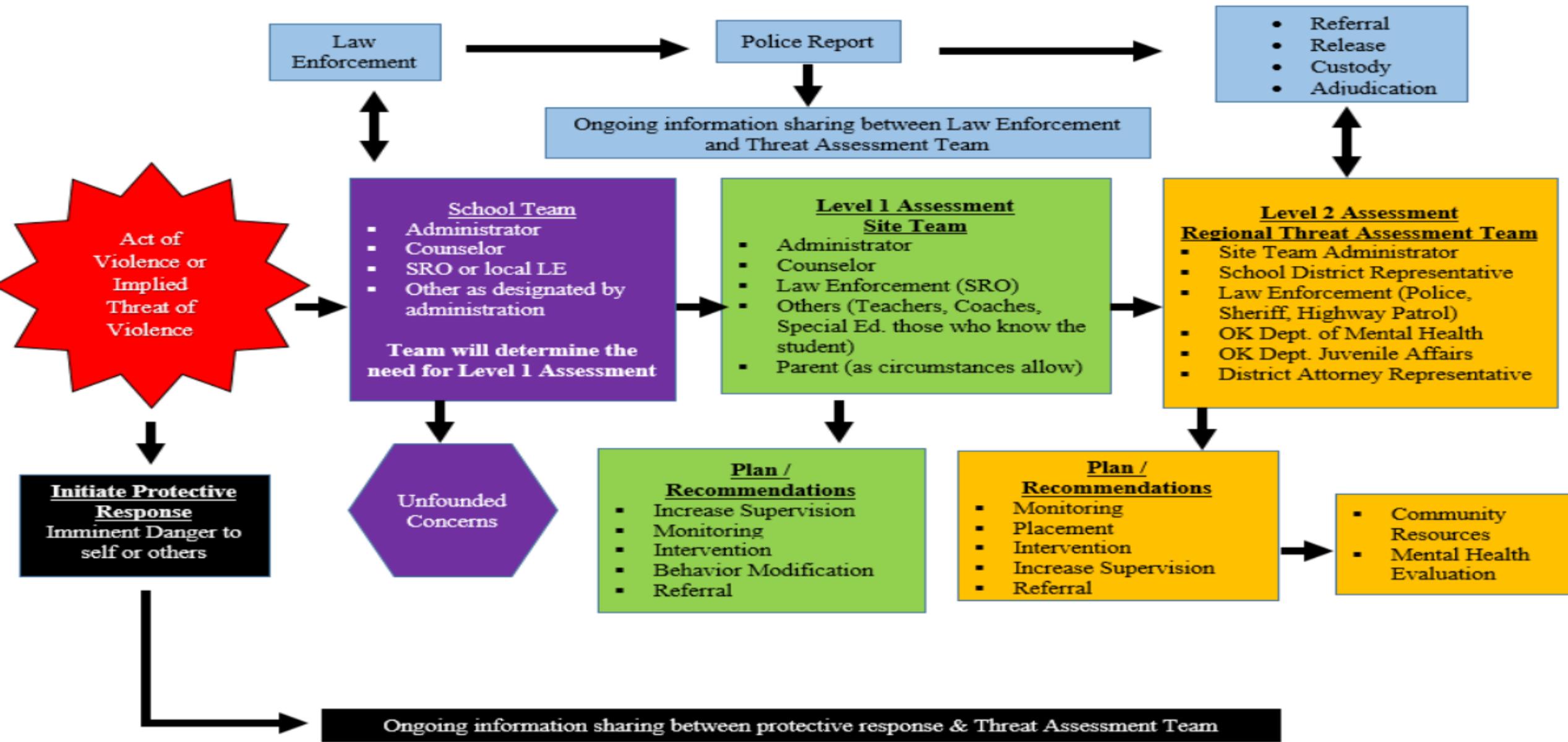
## Title 70. Section 24-100.8

- A. As used in this section, **"threatening behavior" means any verbal threat or threatening behavior, whether or not it is directed at another person, which indicates potential for future harm to students, school personnel or school property.**
- B. An officer or employee of a school district or member of a board of education shall notify law enforcement of any verbal threat or act of threatening behavior which reasonably may have the potential to endanger students, school personnel or school property.
- C. Officers or employees of a school district or members of a board of education shall be immune from employment discipline and any civil liability for communicating information pursuant to subsection B of this section in good faith if they reasonably believe a person is making verbal threats or is exhibiting threatening behavior.
- D. Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose a specific liability on any school district.

# Prevention VS. Prediction

- A doctor cannot tell a patient when he/she will have a heart attack. A medical professional looks at risk factors and warning signs to develop a treatment plan.
- The same is true for Behavioral Threat Assessment. In order to prevent acts of targeted violence, Student Threat Assessment Teams look at risk factors and warning signs to develop a mitigation plan.

OKLAHOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
THREAT ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



# BTA- When to apply?

- Threat, aggression or violence is specific to identified target with motive and plan
- Threat, aggression or violence is causing considerable fear or disruption to activity
- Weapon at school or attempt to bring a weapon
- There is continued intent to carry out threat
- There is a history of threats, aggression or violence
- Staff, parent or student intuition suggests a need to investigate threatening circumstances
- Administrator is unable to determine if a situation poses a risk to school personnel or the community

## Past Events:      **Parkland Florida**

- **February 5, 2016**

An anonymous caller warned a Broward Sheriff's Office deputy that Nikolas Cruz had threatened to shoot up his school on Instagram. Cruz allegedly posted a picture with guns.

- **September 23, 2016**

A "peer counselor" reported to their SRO that Cruz had possibly ingested gasoline in a suicide attempt, cut himself, and wanted to buy a gun.

- **September 24, 2017**

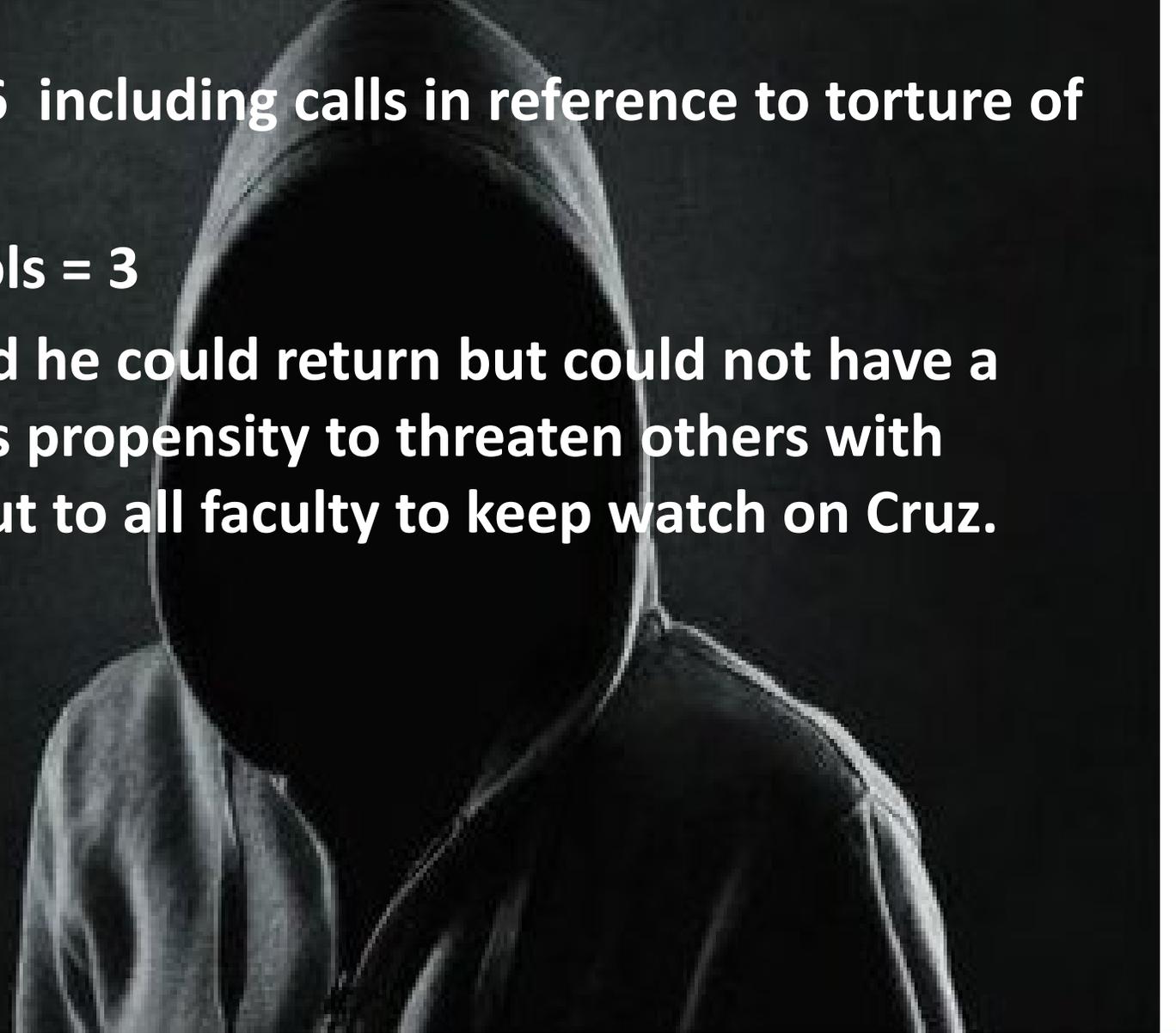
A comment on YouTube by a user named "Nikolas Cruz" stated he wanted to become a "professional school shooter."

- **November 1, 2017**

Katherine Blaine, Lynda Cruz's cousin, called Broward Sheriff's Office to report that Nikolas Cruz had weapons and asked police to remove them.

- **November 2017: Mother dies of complication from Pneumonia--** A member of the family that took in Cruz after the death of his mother called Palm Beach Sheriff's Office to report a fight between him and their 22-year-old son. They reported Cruz threatened to "get his gun and come back" and that he had "put the gun to other's heads in the past." Family declined to have him arrested.
- **November 30, 2017** A caller from Massachusetts called Broward Sheriff's Office to report Cruz had collected guns and knives and could be a "school shooter in the making." A deputy advised the caller to contact the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office.
- **January 5, 2018:** The FBI received a tip that Cruz had "a desire to kill people" and could potentially conduct a school shooting.

- **Total calls to police on Cruz = 26 including calls in reference to torture of and killing animals.**
- **Transfers within different schools = 3**
- **Suspended from school and told he could return but could not have a backpack at school based on his propensity to threaten others with weapons. An email was sent out to all faculty to keep watch on Cruz.**



# Basic Structure



- Monthly Meetings with Level 1 team. (Law Enforcement, Mental Health Professionals, School Administrators, Others (Teachers, Coaches, Special Education personnel, people who know the student, etc.)
- Table Top Exercises. (If there is not a situation that requires attention)
- Liability (Document, Document, Document!!!)

# BASICS- Assessment and Management Process

- Determine the Facts
- Initial Assessment
- Immediate Actions
- Investigation
- Continuous Assessment
- Develop Management Plan
- Follow Up

# Management

- **Definition:**
  - Deliberate steps taken to minimize or mitigate the threat of violence
- **Accomplished by:**
  - Student Threat Assessment Teams
  - Implemented by many community stakeholders

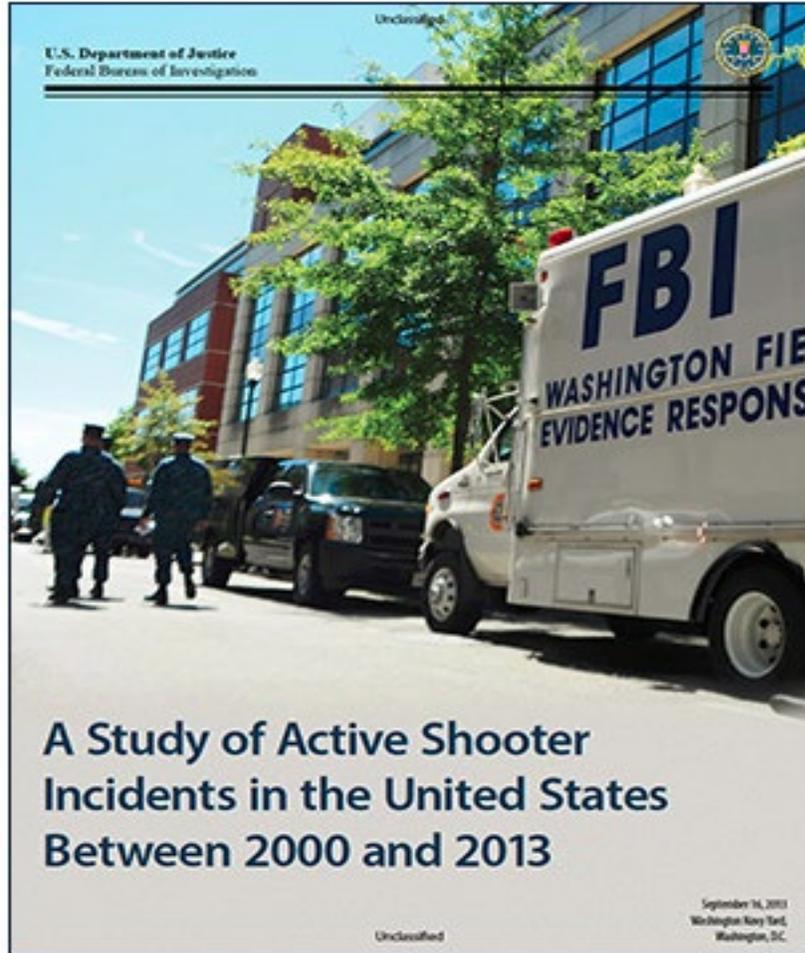
# Conducting the Assessment

- Student threat assessment team reviews all information about the person of concern and identifies the enhancing and mitigating circumstances, discusses unknowns, and addresses questions
- Where is the student on the pathway to intended violence?
- The goal is to come to consensus as to the level of concern the individual poses.

# BTA- Level 1 Tool

- Level 1 consists of 20 questions
- A Stop gap is applied prior to question 13
- Questions 1-12 must be answered and reviewed to determine if the process continues
- <https://sde.ok.gov/ok-cares-bta>

# FBI Study of Active Shooter Incidents

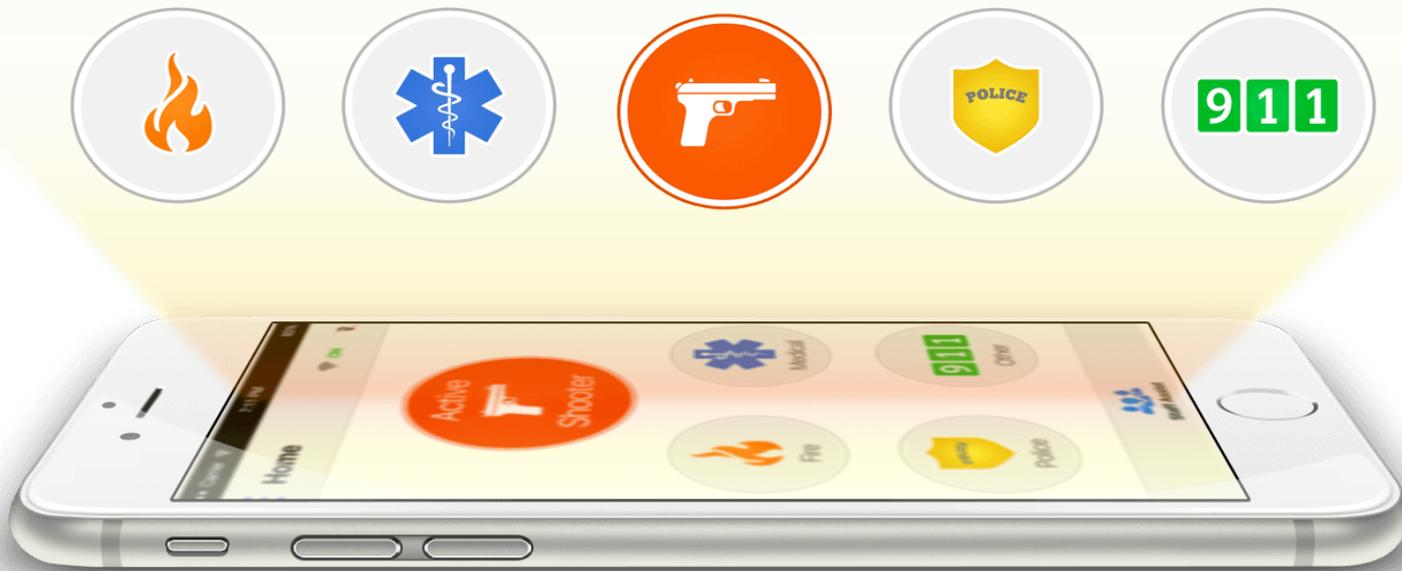


- 160 total incidents / 11.4 annually
- Commerce accounts for 45.6% (73) of incidents
- Educational facilities account for 24.4% (39) of incidents
- 1,043 individuals killed and wounded
- <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/as-study-quick-reference-guide-updated1.pdf/view>

# Mobile Panic Button App

<https://ravemobilesafety.wistia.com/medias/dr5y5z5pnk>

<https://www.ravemobilesafety.com/oklahoma-school-panic-button>



- Instant Incident Notification
- Faster Incident Response
- Stakeholder Collaboration and Response