



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John Allen, Chair
Kim Armstrong
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June 3, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Re: Fair Notice and Process, Student Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO)

The St. Albert Public Schools is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors and community members. As such, we have worked together with police and community partners to adopt the Violence Threat Risk and Assessment (VTRA) and implement the 'Assessment of Risk to Others' (ARTO) Protocol for the St. Albert and Sturgeon region.

What is the purpose of an Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO) Process?

This is a systematic and collaborative approach to threat assessment, whereby community partners work together to investigate potential threats and put supportive interventions in place. ARTO promotes a common language and understanding of threat assessment, makes use of the expertise of various community partners, and encourages a multidisciplinary approach to violence prevention.

What behaviours warrant an Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO) process to be initiated?

When students' behaviours pose a potential threat to safety or risk of serious harm, the St. Albert and Sturgeon Regional VTRA Protocol, through the ARTO process, helps principals take further steps to protect students' well-being. The ARTO protocol helps schools respond quickly to threatening incidents such as: possession of a weapon or a replica weapon; bomb threats or plans; verbal, written or electronic (internet, text) threats to kill or injure oneself or others; or other threats of VTRA.

What is an Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO) Team?

The St. Albert and Sturgeon Regional VTRA Protocol outlines how a school responds to threatening behaviour. The RCMP and school administration are always involved as partners early in the process, with additional school district and community supports

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being brought in as needed. This may include psychologists, social workers, family-school liaison workers, mental health clinicians and other professionals as relevant to the situation.

What happens in an Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO)?

The ARTO process begins when threat making behaviours are reported. The ARTO process is then activated. Interviews will be held with the student(s), the threat-maker, parents, and staff to determine the level of risk and develop an appropriate response to the incident. An intervention plan will be developed and follow up meetings will occur, as deemed necessary, to ensure that interventions are supporting all those involved.

Parents and guardians will be notified as soon as possible in the ARTO process. If parents/guardians cannot be reached, or if they choose not to provide consent, but a concern for safety still exists due to threatening behaviour, the threat assessment will still proceed. Personal information shared throughout this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure the safety of all.

As always, student safety is our first priority. If you have any questions regarding the St. Albert Public Schools, St. Albert and Sturgeon Regional VTRA Protocol and ARTO process, please contact:

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