

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
CHILD & ADOLESCENT
PSYCHIATRY

W W W . A A C A P . O R G

Clinical Essentials on Threat Assessment and Violence Prevention in Children and Adolescents

Course Design: 2 modules tailored to the course learning objectives, followed by a 17-question post-test.

Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this continuing medical educational activity, the participant will be able to:

1. Differentiate between substantive and transient threats of violence in the school setting.
2. Identify key warning signs and questions to ask during the assessment, including in settings that may only allow for brief assessment.
3. Explore the essential aspects of the psychiatric interview with school threat assessment.
4. Examine potential warning behaviors in high-risk threat assessment cases.
5. Describe the process of decision-making and generating psychiatric and educational recommendations.
6. Explain how to advocate for adopting evidence-based threat assessment procedures in schools to prevent violence and address discipline disparities.

Module 1 - Lectures and Topics

Keeping Our Schools Safe: A Safety Assessment Approach to Violence Prevention

Nancy Rappaport, MD: AACAP's Douglas B. Hansen, MD, 48th Annual Update Course

- Current violence prevention strategies implemented by schools
- What kind of safety assessments work
- Safe school initiatives
- Substantive versus transient threats
- Owning the threat assessment process

Serious, Scary, or Insignificant? Practical Aspects of Psychiatric Threat Assessment in Youth

Deborah M. Weisbrot, MD: Special recording for this Clinical Essentials course

- Definitions and case examples
- Critical warning behaviors
- Threat assessment pragmatics
- Mental health comorbidities

- Pathways to a school shooting
- Lessons learned from school shootings
- Essentials of gun safety for clinicians

Module 2: Threat Assessment and School Violence Prevention: An Interview Between Experts Drs. Nancy Rappaport and Deborah M. Weisbrot

- Important information to collect and potential obstacles
- Student interview and mental status exam
- Exploration of threat incident with student and violence history
- Social media investigation
- Firearm/weapon access
- Threat assessment interventions
- Documentation