



Dear Uplift Parents-

We want to share with you our updated process, legal requirements, and ways we investigate serious, or terroristic, threats to our campus safety. First, let us have a shared understanding of the definitions:

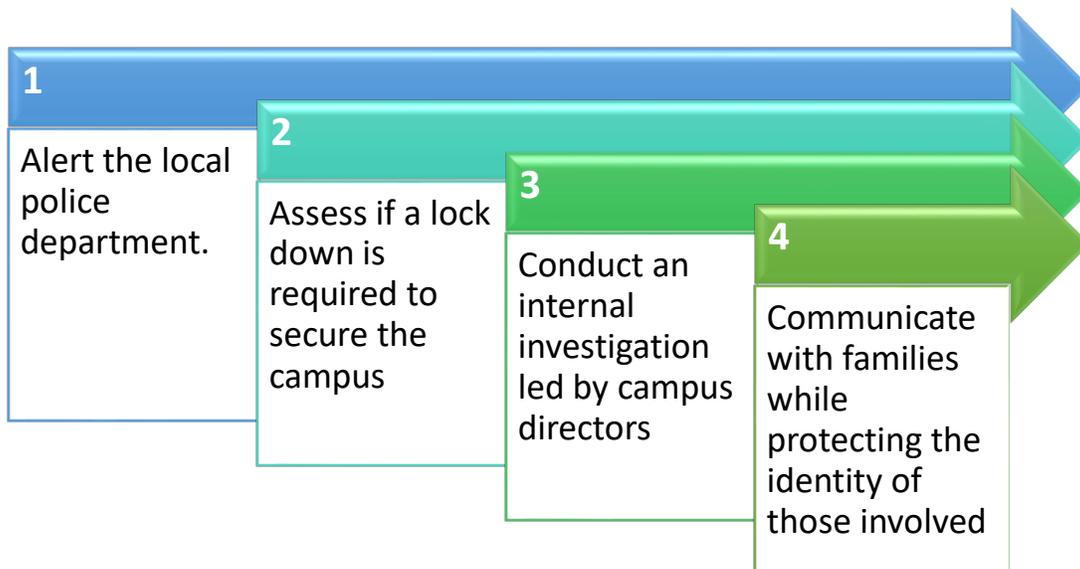
Terroristic Threat

- This offense is defined by Section 22.07 of the Texas Penal Code and under Level III Violations of the Uplift Student Code of Conduct, Section 15.0. In short, a person can commit this offense by making a threat of violence towards a person, group, or property with the intent to place a person or group in fear of serious bodily injury, interrupt the functions of our public schools, or influence the conduct or activities of our schools. A terroristic threat can be a misdemeanor or a felony and can result in significant fines and jail time. Terroristic threats are also expellable offenses under the Uplift Student Code of Conduct, Section 10.2.

Weapons

- Texas Penal Code Section 46.01 and the Uplift Student Code of Conduct Section 15.0 define weapons to include guns, knives, clubs, explosives, hoax bombs, devices that dispense chemicals designed to cause harm, and devices that fire projectiles, among other items. Possessing a prohibited

When a terroristic threat is made or a weapon is reported to be on campus or with a scholar, we take the following steps regardless of who the alleged student is or if this is their first offense:



These steps are followed **EVERY** time a terroristic threat is made, or a claim is made about a weapon on campus. Uplift Education leadership takes every claim seriously and fully investigates and partners with local authorities to determine if threats are viable and to maintain a safe campus environment. The result of the investigation can lead to the expulsion of the scholars involved. It is important to note that each investigation takes many hours/days to complete, which affects the time our leaders can spend supporting teachers and students to achieve their learning goals.

We share this information with you so that you can partner with us in educating your children on the consequences and steps our schools take in accordance with Texas law. Even if a scholar makes a terroristic threat as their **FIRST** offense, or even if the scholar intends the threat as a joke, it is likely that severe consequences will follow.

We will continue to educate our scholars during the school day on these processes during the coming weeks. As a reminder, we have many supports in place to ensure that scholars have a safe and welcoming environment, including:

Advisories

- Advisories are where Uplift teachers build strong relationships with scholars. We use this time to proactively share social emotional learning lessons and have crucial conversations around hot topics that our young adults are facing. All students are required to be in advisory classes.

Student Support Specialists

- Student Support Specialists, currently at 24 schools, are critical to redirecting and helping scholars make better behavior choices. They are at the campus to provide guidance and support to scholars and teachers when escalated behavior incidents arise in coordination with campus leadership.

Social Counselors

- Social counselors are available at every campus to help manage mental health issues, process feelings and uncertainty, as well as provide referrals to other services as needed.

Uplift's promise to families is amazing outcomes for scholars, and our leaders need the time to support teachers and scholars to reach their potential in this important work. Ensuring our families and scholars partner with us to keep schools safe is a responsibility we take seriously. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in keeping our scholars, staff, and schools safe.

In Partnership-