



Uplift Families,

Below you will find information related to our approach and processes for investigating and responding to serious or terroristic threats to our campuses. Uplift Education follows the guidance, recommendations, and requirements set forth by TEA and The Texas School Safety Center.

- A **terroristic threat** is defined by Section 22.07 of the Texas Penal Code. 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.
- A **weapon** is defined in Texas Penal Code Section 46.01 and within the Uplift Student Code of Conduct as including guns, knives, clubs, explosives, hoax bombs, devices that dispense chemicals designed to cause harm, and devices that fire projectiles, among other items.

When a terroristic threat is made or a weapon is reported to be on campus or in a scholar's possession, we take the following steps:

- 1) Alert the police department by contacting 911 and informing our officer on campus
- 2) Assess if a Lockdown is needed to secure the campus, or if other Standard Response Protocol actions are warranted
- 3) Conduct an internal investigation led by the campus leadership team, with involvement from the Safe and Supportive Schools Team as needed
- 4) Communicate with families while protecting the identity of those involved

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.

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.

Ensuring our families and scholars partner with us to keep schools safe is a responsibility we take seriously. We encourage all staff, scholars, and families to immediately report concerns, threats, or suspicious behavior to school leadership as part of our "If you see something, say something" campaign. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in keeping our scholars, staff, and schools safe.