



Every student who has committed an act of mass violence has exhibited a combination of the following behavioral cues leading up to an attack. By recognizing these behavioral cues and properly reporting them, you can help save lives!

Important Note: The following behavioral cues are indicators of mass violence only if several are exhibited. In other words, it's when these behaviors are combined that a child may pose a risk or may be in crisis:

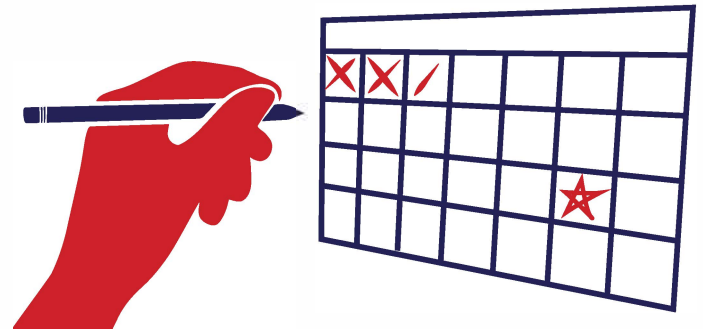


1. A Grievance

Every student who has committed mass violence has had a grievance. They often feel wronged in the extreme and ruminate about their grievance. Their grievance begins to consume them until they discuss little else and drive their friends and family further away. Be aware if your child is pushing away friends, other family members, or you!

2. Planning

Violent attackers plan their attacks for weeks, months, and even years! These plans include acquiring weapons, ammunition, and other supplies. They will often draw, write, or record their plans. In the later stages, they may engage in illegal behavior to obtain money and last-minute items. They will also conduct a "dry run" at their intended location to observe security measures and mentally rehearse their attack beforehand.



3. Venting

During the planning stages, potential attackers are overwhelmed with emotions. They will vent these emotions by disclosing (or hinting at) their plan to a friend, family member, or other social group. Venting takes the form of conversations, social media posts, drawings, writings, or recordings. It's important to remember that all, without exception, vented their plans prior to their attack – this means every previous violent attack could have been prevented! This venting is often disguised as "joking". If you observe a combination of venting and the other behaviors described in this resource, do not assume it's just a joke!



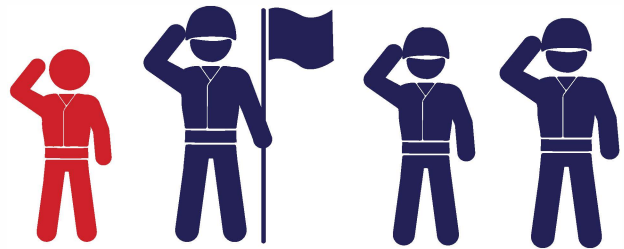


4. Obsession with Violent Media

Every student who attacked others had an obsession with violent media. This can take the form of first-person “shooter” games (which have been scientifically proven to decrease empathy while increasing aggression) or may manifest as an unhealthy obsession with violent media on television, in books, and on the Internet. Be aware of the games and media your children are consuming and any increase in inappropriate, violent content.

5. Commando Complex

It is common for potential attackers to exhibit an obsession with militaria, particularly equipment, weapons, and tactics. Take note if your child or their friends begin dressing in military regalia or mimic a soldierly mentality.

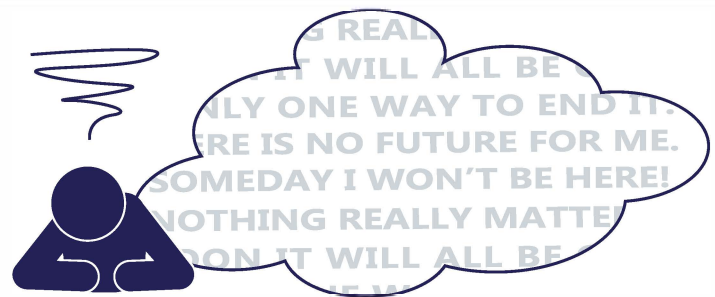


6. Violent Behavior

Mass attackers have always exhibited violent behavior prior to committing an attack. This typically takes the form of harming animals or people in an effort to desensitize themselves and test their own ability to commit violence. Take immediate action if your child has attempted or has hurt animals and attempted to engage in unprovoked, planned physical violence.

7. Suicidal Tendencies

Violent attackers have always expressed suicidal ideations. Most instances of targeted school violence serve as their final statement and act of control before “checking out”. Be mindful of behaviors or statements that reference only the short-term, a lack of future plans, or other expressions alluding to suicide.



How to Help, Stop, and Report

If you observe a combination of the above-mentioned behaviors, seek help immediately! Don't wait until tomorrow – it could be too late! Counselors, psychologists or law enforcement can all offer assistance for someone in crisis and help stop a violent attack before it starts.

