

# Stages in School Shooter Escalation

## Ideation

- Peer/Adult Conversations about ideologies
- Weapons Fixation
- Pseudo-Commando Complex/ Dress
- Social Dissolution
- Image of Grandeur
- Relates or seeks out power ideology [often negative (i.e., Nazis, Hitler, Manson, Cult, Nietzsche)]
- Disturbing notes, journals, videos, postings

## Planning

- Detailing attack process
- Visiting sites
- Pilgrimages to prior attack sites
- Target identification and research
- Weapons research and selection
- Fire starting
- Mapping

## Preparation

- Weapons acquisition/ Stockpiling
- Weapons practice
- Equipment assembly
- Rehearsal/ Simulation (even on video games)
- Hit lists
- Security probing
- Threats occur more frequently
- Goodbyes/ Giving away possessions
- Warnings to avoid a school

## Execution

- Elimination of preliminary targets
- Gathering, funneling, or dispersing crowds
- Execution of the attack

While many school shooters have exhibited these behaviors, no single model can accurately predict mass violent attacks. Students may exhibit other disturbing behaviors of concern and should be referred to appropriate authorities.

Adapted from: Van Dreal, J. (2011). *Assessing student threats: A handbook for implementing the Salem-Keizer System*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.