

Maryland Public School Critical Life-Threatening Incident After-Action Summary Report

This report has been compiled in response to a life-threatening incident that occurred on public school grounds. The report includes lessons learned and recommendations identified following a local review of the incident and is aimed at identifying ways to improve the safety of Maryland public schools.

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

Education Article § 7-1502(g)(21) (MSAR #11851)

Education Article §7-1510(g)(3) (MSAR #11594)

COMAR 14.40.05

School Year: 2023-2024

Submitted: April 24, 2024

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

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April 24, 2024

The Honorable Wes Moore
Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable William C. Ferguson IV
President
Senate of Maryland
State House, H-107
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker
House of Delegates
State House, H-101
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Critical Life Threatening Incident Report required by Education Article § 7-1502(g)(21) (MSAR #11851) and Education Article §7-1510(g)(3) (MSAR #11594)

Dear Governor Moore, President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones:

Pursuant to Education Article § 7-1502(g)(21), Education Article §7-1510(g)(3), and State Government Article §2-1257, the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) respectfully submits the following report, which contains identified lessons learned and school safety recommendations following a critical life-threatening incident on public school grounds.

If you have any questions about this report or would like additional information, please contact MCSS Deputy Director, J. Dino Pignataro at joseph.pignataro@maryland.gov or 410-281-2335.

Sincerely,



Kate Bryan
Executive Director



Maryland Public School Critical Life-Threatening Incident After-Action Summary

On December 19, 2023 there was an incident within Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) that met the criteria to be considered a *Critical Life-Threatening Incident* pursuant to Md. Ed. Art. § 7-1510 (g) and COMAR 14.40.05.

Notification [COMAR 14.40.05.04A]

On December 20, 2023 the BCPS staff notified the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) of the incident.

After-Action Meeting [COMAR 14.40.05.04B]

On January 18, 2024 an after-action meeting was held involving school representatives, law enforcement, and a representative from MCSS.

After-Action Report [COMAR 14.40.05.04C]

On March 28, 2024 BCPS submitted an after-action report to MCSS.

Lessons Learned

Based upon the after-action review led by BCPS, the following lessons learned were identified by individuals participating in the after-action meeting:

1. Injuries were sustained within close proximity to the nurse's suite, allowing those injured to receive immediate first aid and the extent of those injuries to be quickly triaged to determine the need for additional emergency medical services. The situation underscored the value of having trained personnel and equipment readily available inside multiple areas of each school.
2. The school initiated procedures for medical response, which allowed the school to continue instruction while also keeping hallways clear for first responders. As emergencies are unplanned, schools should be encouraged to review and test their emergency plans each year, to include responding agencies, and update those plans and procedures as needed. Additionally, schools should develop pre-canned communication templates to allow for timely updates to parents.



School Safety Recommendations

1. Schools should be equipped with bleeding control kits in areas of the school building that are easily accessible including hallways, gyms, and cafeterias. Once added to the school building, it is imperative that administrative staff, school nurses, security personnel, and other essential employees receive training in the utilization of these kits. Also, schools are encouraged to extend bleeding control and first aid training to all members of the school community, including both staff and students.
2. Communication plans for sending emergency notifications and providing timely information updates to various stakeholder groups should include specific procedures for individuals to follow. It is recommended that schools develop and use templates and statements prepared in advance to facilitate speed and thoughtful messaging. As appropriate, these templates should be drafted in multiple languages to ensure they are accessible to the entire school community.
3. Schools should continue promoting and encouraging participation in solution-focused programs (e.g., mediation, restorative approaches). These initiatives provide students with the tools to constructively resolve conflicts and foster a sense of community and understanding among them. Schools can create a more inclusive and supportive environment by emphasizing the importance of dialogue and reconciliation. Furthermore, integrating these programs into the curriculum can equip students with valuable life skills that extend beyond the classroom, preparing them for the complexities of interpersonal relationships in the wider world.
4. Schools should prioritize the improvement of monitoring in certain parts of the school identified as "areas of concern," including specific hallways that may become particularly congested or problematic during the transition between classes. It is critical for the administration to thoughtfully choose and delegate responsibilities to staff members who are not only equipped with the requisite skills but also demonstrate the right mindset for efficiently overseeing these zones. This strategy will ensure a safer and more orderly environment, contributing to the overall well-being and security of the student body. Enhanced monitoring in these areas can also serve as a deterrent to inappropriate behavior, fostering a culture of respect and responsibility among students.

