

# 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: June 5, 2024**

# MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

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June 5, 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 Hogan, 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 want additional information, please contact MCSS Deputy Director, J. Dino Pignataro at [joseph.pignataro@maryland.gov](mailto:joseph.pignataro@maryland.gov) or 410-281-2335.

Sincerely,



Kate Bryan  
Executive Director



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

Between February 20, 2024, and March 12, 2024, incidents occurred within Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) that met the criteria to be considered a *Critical Life-Threatening Incidents* pursuant to Md. Ed. Art. § 7-1510 (g) and COMAR 14.40.05.

### **Notification** [COMAR 14.40.05.04A]

On March 15, 2024, the BCPS staff notified the Maryland Center for School Safety of the incidents.

### **After-Action Meeting** [COMAR 14.40.05.04B]

On March 27, 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 April 15, 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. All threats to school communities must be taken seriously and investigated in an effort to determine credibility. Threats that include school shootings and bombings are particularly disruptive to school operations because they can result in the activation of emergency response protocols including lockout, shelter-in-place, and evacuation. Knowing school emergency plans allows school staff to take appropriate protective actions by activating these protocols.
2. It is critical for schools to communicate clearly and quickly with school staff, students, and parents, and as necessary, the wider community to alleviate concerns about threats made against a school.



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3. Schools should work with local law enforcement to add additional law enforcement patrols around impacted schools for parents that choose to pick their children up early from school.
4. Collaboration and cooperation between BCPS and law enforcement was critical in identifying the individual responsible for threats made against the schools.

## School Safety Recommendations

1. Maryland schools and school systems should continue to encourage students to report threats of violence to a trusted adult. Additionally, school communities have access to Safe Schools Maryland<sup>1</sup>, which provides a mechanism to report threats of violence anonymously.
2. Quick reference sheets containing critical information and emergency procedures (e.g., elements of the school emergency plan, including the receipt of threats by phone and/or social media) in a simple and easy-to-follow format should be placed in classrooms and the front office at the start of every school year. These sheets should be reviewed and updated during the emergency plan update process.
3. Students should be provided information throughout the school year about their responsibilities as a digital citizen. Digital citizenship can be defined as the successful and positive engagement with digital technologies that allow individuals and communities to cultivate values, skills, attitudes, and knowledge. Cyberbullying, swatting, plagiarism, and cell phone disruptions during the school day, are all examples of poor digital citizenship. By reinforcing the expectations of healthy internet usage throughout the school year, the hope is that these negative examples will be decreased.
4. Threat reporting and communication protocols, which allow rapid notification to critical staff and law enforcement, should be tested regularly to ensure designated individuals know how to respond. Schools should participate with law enforcement in regularly scheduled discussion-based exercises designed to test their response to school threats, both from online and direct sources.

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<sup>1</sup> [Safe Schools Maryland](#) is an anonymous and free reporting system available to students, teachers, school staff members, parents, and the general public to report any school or student safety concerns, including mental health concerns.

