

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: March 21, 2024

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

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March 21, 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 June 7, 2023 there was an incident within Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) 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 June 7, 2023 PGCPS staff notified the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) of the incident.

After-Action Meeting [COMAR 14.40.05.04B]

On July 13, 2023, 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 July 14, 2023 PGCPS submitted an after-action report to MCSS.

Lessons Learned

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

1. Training and exercising school emergency operations plans should be conducted in coordination with the school community, including local responding agencies, school staff, and school system-level personnel.
2. Procedures for placing a school on lockdown should include procedures that account for students and staff outside the school facility when a lockdown protocol is initiated.
3. Schools should conduct regular assessments of video surveillance systems within and around school facilities to identify potential vulnerabilities, blind spots, or areas that may require heightened security measures.



4. Schools should work with responding agencies to test communication capabilities, including equipment (e.g., public safety radios), signals, and protocols, in an effort to strengthen communication among agencies. This testing should include school communication systems, i.e., intercoms, public address systems, and school two-way radios.
5. School emergency plans should include organizational structures and assignments for incidents. Once an incident occurs, if responsibilities are not already included in the plan, the responding staff should be immediately assigned their role in the response by the incident commander¹.

School Safety Recommendations

1. Local Education Agencies (LEAs) should include their respective response agency partners when conducting facility assessments, developing emergency operations plans, and conducting regular exercises that allow the school staff, the LEAs and response partners to test their school emergency operations plans. Attention should be given to the identification of roles and responsibilities as well as communication procedures used, for all responding school staff and agencies.
2. LEAs should draft crisis communication templates that describe the various school response protocols (e.g., lock-down, shelter-in-place) and share those templates with responding public safety agencies to ensure that the school, school system, and response agencies are using the same terminology when describing school actions during emergencies.

¹ FEMA, Incident Command System for Schools,
https://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is100c/english/handouts/ics_for_schools.pdf.