# MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

#### April 1, 2022

The Honorable Larry Hogan 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 would like additional information, please contact MCSS Deputy Director, J. Dino Pignataro at <u>joseph.pignataro@maryland.gov</u> or 410-281-2335.

Sincerely,

Kate Hession Executive Director



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

On December 2, 2021 there was an incident involving a school within Baltimore County 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 2, 2021 the BCPS school safety coordinator (SSC) notified the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) of the incident.

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

On January 10, 2022 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 February 2, 2022 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:

1. During emergencies, schools must quickly communicate accurate and appropriate information quickly and regularly to school staff, parents, and the media to prevent the spread of misinformation.

#### **School Safety Recommendations**

1. While conducting their required annual exercises,<sup>1</sup> schools should develop an exercise scenario that allows the school to meet the exercise requirement while also testing their crisis communication plans.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> MSDE requires school systems to conduct seven emergency exercises annually. The functions required to be tested include fire; evacuation; shelter in place; reverse evacuation; lock down; drop, cover, and hold; and severe weather. COMAR 13A.02.02.04C.