
MK Hessow

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

On February 14, 2022 there was an incident involving a school within Kent County Public Schools (KCPS) 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 February 14, 2022, the KCPS School Security Coordinator (SSC) notified the Maryland Center for School Safety of the incident.

After-Action Meeting [COMAR 14.40.05.04B]

On February 22, 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 April 28, 2022, KCPS submitted an after-action report to MCSS.

Lessons Learned

Based upon the after-action review led by the KCPS, the following lessons learned were identified:

1. When responding to school emergency incidents, effective communication and coordination among school staff and assigned school resource officers (SROs) is essential in keeping schools and students safe.
2. Schools need access to bleeding control kits and trained staff to use such equipment to effectively respond to life-threatening emergencies.
3. During emergencies, schools and first responders must communicate accurate information regarding school actions (e.g., shelter-in-place vs. lock-down) to prevent confusion.

School Safety Recommendations

1. School emergency plans should be exercised regularly¹ and include exercises that test communication and coordination between school staff and first responders including law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services. Additionally, schools should develop a mechanism to track corrective actions to completion.²
2. Schools should be equipped with bleeding control kits and administration, nursing, security, and other critical staff should be trained on their use. Schools should also consider providing bleeding control training to all school personnel and students.
3. School systems 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 Schools in Maryland are required to conduct seven emergency exercises annually. COMAR 13A.02.02.04C

² FEMA, Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program 6-2 (2020), <https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/Homeland-Security-Exercise-and-Evaluation-Program-Doctrine-2020-Revision-2-2-25.pdf>.