

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

December 22, 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 joseph.pignataro@maryland.gov or 410-281-2335.

Sincerely,



Kate Hession
Executive Director



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

On September 2, 2022 there was an incident resulting in a student death at a school 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.

The following serve as preliminary findings. *MCSS is continuing to engage with Baltimore City Public School officials to pursue additional lessons learned and recommendations. An amended report will follow upon completion.*

Notification [COMAR 14.40.05.04A]

On September 3, 2022, the BCPS School Security Coordinator (SSC) notified the Maryland Center for School Safety of the incident.

After-Action Meeting [COMAR 14.40.05.04B]

On October 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 October 12, 2022, BCPS submitted an after-action report to MCSS.

Lessons Learned

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

1. During emergencies, an administrative staff member should be designated to obtain emergency information about the victim, and relay it to the appropriate emergency responders. School administrators assuming this task will allow the onsite SRO to engage in necessary law enforcement duties.
2. In schools that require uniforms, SROs and staff members should monitor entry and dismissal times to see if there are people not in uniform coming on campus, who may not be a student or a staff member. This will allow

for an appropriate adult to address individuals who may not belong on school property.

School Safety Recommendations

1. Maryland schools and school systems should continue to encourage students to report potential issues a student may be having to a trusted adult. Additionally, schools have access to Safe Schools Maryland¹, which provides a mechanism to anonymously report potential threats of violence. A plan should be developed to disseminate information about the tip line to students and community members ensuring individuals can easily access the information to report a safety concern.
2. Schools should familiarize students and caregivers with information about when and how to access mental health services on a continual basis. Through the consistent presence of mental health support during non-emergency situations, students will be comfortable and trusting of these individuals, so that if an incident were to occur in the future, students will be able to make use of them.

¹ 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. Safe Schools Maryland serves all Maryland public schools and currently over 200 private schools in Maryland. Safe Schools Maryland operates twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. Anonymous reports can be submitted by calling the tip line (1-833-MD-B-SAFE / 1-833-632-7233), completing an online form at <http://safeschoolsmd.org/>, or downloading the free Safe Schools Maryland app from the App Store or Google Play.