

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. It includes lessons learned and recommendations identified following a local review of the incident and aims to identify ways to improve the safety of Maryland public schools.

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

Education Article § 7-1502(g)(21)

Education Article §7-1510(g)

COMAR 14.40.05.04

School Year: 2024-2025

Submitted: January 23, 2025

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

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January 23, 2025

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), Education Article §7-1510(g) (MSAR #11594), and COMAR § 14.40.05.04 (MSAR #15583).

Dear Governor Moore, President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones:

Pursuant to Education Article § 7-1502(g)(21), Education Article §7-1510(g), and State Government Article §2-1257, and COMAR § 14.40.05.04, 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 Joseph 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 October 28, 2024, an incident occurred within Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) that met the criteria for being 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 October 29, 2024, the MCPS staff notified the Maryland Center for School Safety of the incident.

After-Action Meeting [COMAR 14.40.05.04B]

On November 06, 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 November 18, 2024, MCPS submitted an after-action report to MCSS.

Lessons Learned

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

1. Students and staff followed fire drill protocols effectively, ensuring swift and safe evacuation.
2. Initially, students boarded buses out of sequence. Adjustments to a section-based dismissal strategy improved the process. Real-time adjustments to the dismissal strategy demonstrated the staff's flexibility and commitment to student safety.
3. Strong collaboration between school staff, the Fire Department, and MCPS ensured the situation was resolved efficiently and safely.



School Safety Recommendations

1. This incident emphasizes the importance of doing after-action reviews of incidents to identify areas for improvement. Real-time adjustments to procedures to address issues that arise during an incident can be used to update existing emergency protocols.
2. It is critical to practice drills and exercises at different times during the school day, particularly during class transitions, arrival, lunch periods, and dismissal to test plans. Practicing early dismissal from evacuation points can help identify potential issues with the safe transfer of students to school buses from locations that are different from a normal dismissal, and plans can be adapted to address each situation.

