

# **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: June 2, 2025**

# MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

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June 2, 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](mailto:joseph.pignataro@maryland.gov) or 410-281-2335.

Sincerely,



Kate Bryan  
Executive Director



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

On March 6, 2025 there was an incident within Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) 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 April 1, 2025 the FCPS staff notified the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) of the incident.

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

On April 29, 2025 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 May 7, 2025 FCPS submitted an after-action report to MCSS.

### **Lessons Learned**

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

1. Collaborative investigations are paramount for ensuring student and staff safety, especially in the initial stages of an incident. Here, the prompt and responsive collaboration between school administration and School Resource Officers (SROs) allowed for a swift and thorough investigation. This joint effort was critical in quickly assessing the credibility of the threat. The streamlined sharing of information and coordinated interview techniques significantly contributed to the overall safety of the school community by mitigating potential panic and allowing for appropriate measures to be taken with minimal disruption.
2. Early reporting by students is crucial in mitigating potential threats and ensuring timely intervention. In this incident, a student reported the threats to an administrator, which was instrumental in promptly initiating the investigation. This highlights the importance of fostering a school culture where students feel safe and empowered to report suspicious or threatening behavior without fear of reprisal.



The swiftness of this report allowed authorities to engage immediately, preventing the situation from escalating or causing widespread panic.

## School Safety Recommendations

1. It is recommended that schools proactively review and enhance strategies and policies that encourage student and parent engagement with offered support services. This could include varied outreach methods, direct communication with students and parents detailing the benefits of counseling, updates to the student code of conduct disciplinary policies, and potentially exploring alternative formats or providers for support that might be more appealing. Additionally, schools may consider developing a clear communication plan for future incidents that, even if a community message isn't deemed necessary, outlines internal communication protocols to ensure all relevant staff are informed and prepared to address any lingering concerns or questions from the school community.
2. It is recommended that schools implement or strengthen educational programs focused on digital citizenship and responsible online behavior. These programs should specifically address the dangers of making threats online, the importance of reporting concerning content, and the potential consequences of such actions. Furthermore, schools should regularly publicize and reinforce the various avenues available for students to report concerns, ensuring they are easily accessible and understood. This could include anonymous reporting systems like Safe Schools Maryland<sup>1</sup>, designated trusted adults, and clear communication channels, thereby encouraging a culture of vigilance and responsibility among the student body.

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<sup>1</sup> 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, <https://schoolsafety.maryland.gov/Pages/Tipline.aspx>.