

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

This report, compiled in response to a life-threatening incident on public school grounds, details lessons learned and recommendations gathered from a local review to enhance 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: 2025-2026

Submitted: March 26, 2026

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March 26, 2026

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 December 18, 2025, there was an incident within Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) that met *Critical Life-Threatening Incident* criteria pursuant to Md. Ed. Art. § 7-1510 (g) and COMAR 14.40.05.

Notification [COMAR 14.40.05.04A]

On December 18, 2025, the PGCPS staff notified the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) of the incident.

After-Action Meeting [COMAR 14.40.05.04B]

On February 17, 2026, an after-action meeting was held involving school representatives, law enforcement, and representatives from MCSS.

After-Action Report [COMAR 14.40.05.04C]

On February 26, 2026, PGCPS submitted an after-action report to MCSS.

Lessons Learned

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

1. School staff demonstrated success by responding quickly to provide emergency medical care, initiating an immediate investigation, and utilizing the "Lockdown" status. By acting swiftly to protect students from further injury, staff reinforced the value of consistent training, readiness, and the effective implementation of action-based emergency response protocols.
2. The incident highlighted critical vulnerabilities in perimeter security and access control, specifically during highly vulnerable, transitional periods. An unauthorized individual was able to bypass the main entrance security checkpoint because a student opened an exterior door during a morning class transition. Furthermore, the lack of real-time alerts tied to exterior door openings hindered staff's situational awareness and delayed the initial response to the perimeter breach.



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3. The immediate availability of school security personnel in central locations facilitates rapid containment. The presence of dedicated safety personnel, such as school resource officers and security employees, supports a swift and effective response to threats and emergencies. This underscores the critical importance of having safety professionals readily accessible on campus to quickly stabilize incidents, coordinate interventions, and maintain a secure environment.

School Safety Recommendations

1. Emergency procedures should be reviewed, trained, and tested annually to ensure staff proficiency during an actual emergency. Consistent practice and comprehensive annual training programs build the necessary "muscle memory" and empower staff to execute critical response protocols—such as a "Lockdown"—swiftly and confidently during high-stress situations on school grounds.
2. Preventing unauthorized entry into schools is of critical importance, requiring Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to continuously review and strengthen access control measures. To reduce the risk of similar perimeter breaches, LEAs must consider security enhancements including exterior door monitoring, real-time alert systems for unauthorized door openings, and immediate staff notifications regarding defective door locks.
3. All administrators, security, and facilities staff should receive basic training on how to recognize and preserve potential crime scenes. Keeping an incident area undisturbed is paramount to maintaining the integrity of crucial evidence. This training ensures that the accidental cleaning, loss, or alteration of an area considered a crime scene does not occur before law enforcement or LEA investigators have fully processed and cleared the scene.

