

# **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**

# MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

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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](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 December 17, 2025 there was an incident within Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) 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 17, 2025 the MCPS staff notified the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) of the incident.

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

On February 04, 2026 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 February 04, 2026 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. School leadership demonstrated success by responding quickly and initiating the "Secure" status to protect students. By acting swiftly, staff properly utilized standardized protocols to safeguard against a potential threat outside or on the perimeter of the building. This reinforces the value of consistent training, drilling, and implementing action-based response protocols.
2. The incident highlighted vulnerabilities in perimeter security and access control, specifically during unstructured times. Because the incident occurred during lunch, students were able to open an exterior door, allowing unauthorized individuals to enter and remain on campus. Furthermore, the lack of real-time alerts tied to exterior door openings hindered staff's situational awareness and delayed the initial response.



3. Emergency reporting procedures were not properly utilized, leading to a delayed police and medical response. There was a delay because staff utilized a non-emergency phone line rather than calling 9-1-1. In critical incidents, immediate notification of emergency dispatch is essential to allow first responders to arrive and assess the situation as quickly as possible.
4. Information relevant to the investigation was not immediately shared with law enforcement. Effective and swift communication between schools and law enforcement is essential for the rapid investigation of incidents affecting the school community. Delays in sharing critical information limit law enforcement's ability to evaluate the situation, contain the threat, and begin the investigative process while details are fresh.

## School Safety Recommendations

1. Emergency reporting procedures should be reviewed, trained, and tested annually to allow for more immediate notification of law enforcement using proper channels (9-1-1) upon the first report of a weapon on school grounds. Staff training should reinforce that non-emergency lines are insufficient during active, evolving incidents and guarantee immediate police contact upon the initial report of a threat.
2. Preventing unauthorized entry into schools is of critical importance, and LEAs need to consider security enhancements, including exterior door monitoring and alert systems, to reduce the risk of similar incidents. Schools should continuously review and strengthen access control measures and perimeter security, particularly during highly vulnerable, unstructured periods like lunch or dismissal. Utilizing real-time alert technology ensures that administration and security staff are immediately notified of unauthorized access or breaches to the building's perimeter so that a response can be initiated without delay.
3. Open channels of communication with internal and external partners before, during, and after an incident are critical to maintaining a relationship that supports the successful prevention, mitigation, and resolution of emergency events. Information developed after the initial response, such as suspect identifiers or real-time movement tracking via campus surveillance, needs to be immediately shared with public safety agencies investigating these events. Prompt information sharing fosters a vital partnership among school administrators, staff, and local law enforcement, ensuring that responding officers receive accurate, real-time intelligence to coordinate their response and launch a timely investigation.