

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

June 17, 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 February 08, 2022 there was an incident involving a school within Baltimore County 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.

Notification [COMAR 14.40.05.04A]

On February 08, 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 April 01, 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 May 09, 2022, MCSS received an after-action report from BCPS.

Lessons Learned

Based upon the after-action review led by the BCPS, the following lessons learned were identified:

1. Schools must ensure that all school staff are trained on and practice emergency response procedures.
2. Communication equipment, including intercom speakers, must be regularly tested to ensure they are in working order at all times.

School Safety Recommendations

1. Schools and school systems should have a system in place that tracks and ensures staff participation in school safety training and exercises.

2. The testing of equipment should be part of a regular school school safety assessment.¹
3. While conducting required annual exercises,² schools should develop an exercise scenario that allows the school to meet the exercise objectives while also testing their crisis communication systems including email, text, phones, radios, intercom, and public address systems. Identified areas for improvement should be reported in the school systems annual emergency plan performance summary report³ and school safety assessment summary report.

¹ The Safe to Learn Act 2018 requires school systems to conduct regular safety assessments of their schools. MCSS recommends schools conduct annual assessments of their facilities, emergency plans, and their preparedness activities (e.g., training, drills). A facility assessment requires staff to walk in and around buildings and grounds in an effort to identify vulnerabilities. In addition to the physical grounds, assessments must be made of school policies, plans, or procedures in response to emergencies, both during school or at school-sponsored events after school or off school grounds. A summary of these assessments is required to be submitted to MCSS as they are completed. Md. Ed. Art. §7-1510(a).

² COMAR 13A.02.02.04C.

³ Emergency plan performance summary reports are required to be submitted to MCSS by August 1, each year. Md. Ed. Art. §7-1510(f).