

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

April 1, 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 December 2, 2021 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 December 2, 2021 the BCPS school safety coordinator (SSC) notified the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) of the incident.

After-Action Meeting [COMAR 14.40.05.04B]

On January 10, 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 February 2, 2022 BCPS submitted an after-action report to MCSS.

Lessons Learned

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

1. During emergencies, schools must quickly communicate accurate and appropriate information quickly and regularly to school staff, parents, and the media to prevent the spread of misinformation.

School Safety Recommendations

1. While conducting their required annual exercises,¹ schools should develop an exercise scenario that allows the school to meet the exercise requirement while also testing their crisis communication plans.

¹ MSDE requires school systems to conduct seven emergency exercises annually. The functions required to be tested include fire; evacuation; shelter in place; reverse evacuation; lock down; drop, cover, and hold; and severe weather. COMAR 13A.02.02.04C.