

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

Sincerely,



Kate Hession  
Executive Director

# **Maryland Public School**

## **Critical Life-Threatening Incident**

### **After-Action Summary**

On September 30, 2021 there was an incident involving a school within Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) 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 September 30, 2021 the HCPS school safety coordinator (SSC) notified the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) of the incident.

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

On October 19, 2021 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 January 14, 2022 HCPS submitted an after-action report to MCSS.

#### **Lessons Learned**

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

1. School officials and law enforcement personnel should be prepared to modify evacuation procedures and bring in additional staffing support as necessary to protect evacuations.
2. School emergency plans should include up to date emergency phone numbers for key personnel, and staff should be trained on notification procedures.

## **School Safety Recommendations**

1. Schools should participate with law enforcement in annual discussion- and operational-based exercises<sup>1</sup> that test their response to multiple school threats. Additionally, schools should develop a mechanism to track corrective actions to completion.<sup>2</sup>
2. Schools should test emergency staff communications plans prior to the start of each school year and whenever staffing changes are made.

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<sup>1</sup> “Discussion-based exercises include seminars, workshops, tabletop exercises (TTXs), and games. These types of exercises familiarize players with or develop new plans, policies, procedures, and agreements ... [and] focus on strategic, policy-oriented issues.” FEMA, Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (2020), <https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/Homeland-Security-Exercise-and-Evaluation-Program-Doctrine-2020-Revision-2-2-25.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id* at 6-2.